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# John Ramsay of Kildalton



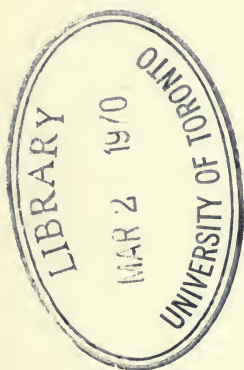
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# John Ramsay of Kildalton J.P.,M.P.,D.L.

Being an Account of his Life  
in Islay and including the  
Diary of his trip to Canada in  
1870.

by Freda Ramsay

Peter Martin Associates Limited



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## Foreword

Rarely have I been privileged to read a story as impressive and touching as that recorded in the diary of John Ramsay, Esq., depicting the incidents of his journeyings in Canada in the year 1870, at which time he visited the new homes of those who had been his tenants on the Island of Islay, Argyllshire, and had later emigrated to the Province of Ontario where they settled and prospered in the counties of Ontario, Victoria, Simcoe, Grey and Bruce.

Several years earlier Mr. Ramsay, realizing that the land on the Island of Islay could not sustain its ever-increasing population, had the practical vision to see that those courageous and determined Scots, if given an opportunity in the New World, had the capacity, industry and determination for success to a degree which they themselves did not visualize. In order to facilitate their emigration he arranged with the steamship company for substantially reduced fares and in some cases paid the fares himself. In the years 1862-63 about four hundred Islay people settled in Canada.

History does not record, to the best of my knowledge, any other Scottish landlord who, in addition to following the course of adventure of his tenants in the New World, actually crossed the Atlantic to learn for himself the state of their progress. Happily he found that they, as a result of their unfaltering faith, invincible courage and unremitting toil, had built for themselves pleasant and comfortable homes, cleared much land which yielded bountiful crops, and were, on the whole, a happy and

contented people. The warm welcome cordially given him by those who at one time were his tenants testifies to the ingratiating qualities which characterized this intrepid humanitarian.

Mr. Ramsay's concern for the welfare of Scottish emigrants generally is further evidenced in the early pages of his diary by his visit to those Highlanders from the island of Lewis who had settled in the vicinity of Stornoway and Lake Megantic in the Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec.

Mrs. Iain Ramsay, whose late husband was a grandson of the author of this diary, has written in concise and dignified style. With the hand of a master she portrays the privations and hardships which the tenants endured in Islay and the contribution made for their relief and eventual prosperity by John Ramsay, a man who added to his humanitarian interests those of an eminent scholar, a wise counsellor, an outstanding parliamentarian and a successful industrialist.

Mrs. Ramsay is now engaged in extensive historical research for the University of Glasgow in relation to the worldwide emigration from Scotland during the past centuries. Moreover, she is lending her fine literary talent to the publication of a history of Islay during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Mrs. Ramsay's daughter Janna, Mrs. Henry Best of Moffat, Ontario, is the fifth generation of the Ramsay family to come to Canada.

Those of Scottish birth or extraction, indeed all who are interested in Highland Scottish colonization in Canada, should be deeply indebted to Mrs. Ramsay for making this record available.

J. Keiller Mackay

Toronto, Ontario,  
December 14, 1968

## Acknowledgements

No book such as this can be the work of any one person entirely. I have been encouraged and assisted by many people and owe particular thanks to Dr. and Mrs. W.D. Lamont of Glasgow University, who read and constructively criticised the original text; Sir William Robieson, Chairman of the Ross Fund Committee, and Professor A.A.M. Duncan, of Glasgow University, who procured a research grant for me; Lord Margadale of Islay, who allowed me access to the Campbell and Morrison Papers relating to Islay; Mr. Neil Morrison, Mr. Finlay Payne (both descendants of Islay emigrants) and Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan, liaison officer to the Ontario Archives, who have all driven me through Ontario in the steps of John Ramsay: Mr. George Heard Campbell, Mr. John A. Campbell, Mr. William Campbell, of Oro Township, Mr. Bruce Carr, Editor of the Ontario Genealogical Society's Bulletin, Mr. Neil MacEachern, Downsview, all of whom have very kindly supplied original photographs of Islay emigrants and their houses; Mr. Donald McOuat, Archivist of the Province of Ontario, and his staff who gave unstinted help in locating material regarding the Islay emigrants; Professor and Mrs. D.F. Cappell of Glasgow University for their constant interest and encouragement; and my daughter and son-in-law, Janna and Henry Best, whose hospitality and innumerable kindnesses have made all possible.



## John Ramsay of Kildalton —his Life

“We are all Reformers here,” wrote Christian Ramsay, later Wright, to her young brother John in a letter describing the political, social and family activities in the Alloa household of her Aunt Kirsty. The Reform Bill (to be passed in 1832) was a prime topic for discussion in 1831 and Aunt Kirsty led the Ramsay contingent in its favour.

Aunt Christian Ramsay (known always in the family by the old Scots abbreviation of Kirsty) was a redoubtable woman, who had rescued the family finances when Robert, her eldest brother and father of Christian and John, let slip from his loose grasp the malting and distilling business built up by his father, Thomas Ramsay, and his grandfather Ebenezer Morrison. The Ramsays were an independent lot, possessed of flaring, though not sulky, tempers; proud of their lineage, descended from Dalhousie and kin to the Sterlings, Morrisons, Erskines, Grahams, Mitchells and Steins. Moreover, as a family they maintained a tradition of reform. In earlier generations they had “suffered” for the Reformed Church in Scotland and fought in the army of the Covenant;



Peter MacDougal, dominie in Stirling



Kirsty Ramsay of Alloa, aunt of John  
Ramsay of Kildalton

later, in 1747, they had followed the Reverend Ebenezer Erskine in the split of the Secession Church and later still, in 1843, they were to walk out of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland with Dr. Thomas Chalmers to assist in the founding of the Free Church of Scotland.

John Ramsay, the youngest son in a family of seven, was born on August 15, 1815, exactly two months after the Battle of Waterloo. To the end of his days he retained a vivid memory of watching, as a small child, from the windows of one of the tall Stirling houses, the last public hanging in Scotland. The victims, Baird and Hardie, belonged to a movement which bound its members by the "Glasgow Oath" to endeavour "to obtain either by moral or physical strength as the case may require for all persons, not disqualified by crimes or insanity, the elective franchise at the age of twenty-one". When they marched towards Edinburgh to dramatize their cause, armed with pikes and agricultural implements, they were arrested by the military, convicted of treason and sentenced to death. Admitting that the authorities were still fearful of the possible effects of the French Revolution, nonetheless the Ramsay family were staunch supporters of the Electoral Reform Bill which, twelve years later, was to be a fitting memorial to the unfortunate weavers. In after years, the impression made by this event fired John's interest in politics and he gave his youthful admiration to Sir Robert Peel, whose great statesmanship remained an inspiration throughout his life.

John and his two brothers were educated in Stirling under the famous dominie, Peter MacDougall, spending much of their time with their Grandfather Stirling at Craigforth. He was a progressive farmer, a highly successful breeder of cattle, and his influence, like MacDougall's, was to be very evident in John's later life.

#### 4 *John Ramsay of Kildalton*

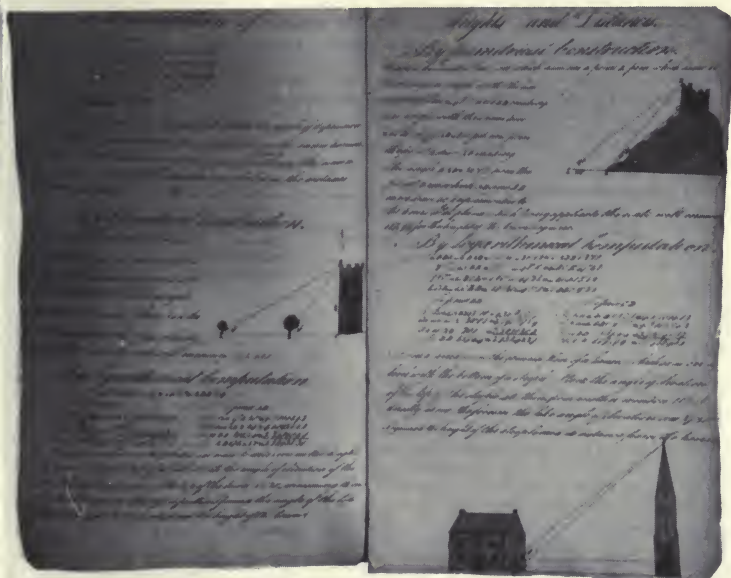
By 1828, Thomas, his eldest brother, was shipbuilding in Miramachi, New Brunswick. William, the second brother, who was delicate and would marry and die within a few years, lived with his uncle Alexander Ramsay, who farmed at Overton, near Alloa. Young John, sensitive, with the quick temper of the redhead, and very intelligent, was not content after the death of his mother and grandfather Stirling to remain a recipient of his Aunt Kirsty's bounty and at the age of twelve he rode off through the January snow to seek his fortune in Glasgow.

There he was welcomed by a maternal aunt and her husband, Peter Maxton. He first obtained work in a mill at Balfron, which he hoped might lead to his becoming an engineer. In fact, it held no such prospect and he shortly gave it up to become clerk at Mr. White's cotton mill in Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, at a weekly wage of fifteen shillings.

There is a most revealing little account book, meticulously kept in a fine copperplate hand from the moment he started work there in March, 1828. It recounts that he paid three shillings a fortnight for his lodgings and bought all his own provisions. A typical entry reads,

Sept. 19	1d.	5d.			
	Pears,	Herrings.	. . . . .	" "	6
	9d.	5d.	4d.		
	Potatoes,	Coffee,	Sugar.	. " 1	6
	2d.	4½d.	6d.		
	Loaf,	Cheese,	Milk.	. . . " 1	-½
	2d.	5d.	1d.		
	Ham,	Butter,	Salt.	. . . " "	8
	3/-				
	Lodging,	4 Pecks of Meal	. " 7	4	
	Paid for a new coat making	" 7	6		





School exercise book of John Ramsay, dated 1827



Jeanie Ramsay, Mrs.  
Thomas Miller, Clara  
of St. Ronan's Well

1d.	1d.			
Nuts, Pears	. . . . .	"	"	2
Gave my sister Marg <sup>t</sup> to buy				
a new coat				
Pears 1d.	. . . . .	"	4	1

He paid Mr. Laidlaw "for teaching me Latin, 7/-" and quarterly subscriptions to the reading club and lending library of 1/1. Although he was careful, he was also generous and there are many entries of gifts to his sisters and "a ring for Aunt"; toys for his young cousins in Glasgow and for the children of his eldest sister Janet, Mrs. Pender, who lived in Falkirk. To visit her he travelled "by boat, 3/-" on the Forth-Clyde Canal, sometimes getting a lift on to Alloa in the Earl of Mar's coach, for which he would tip the coachman a shilling. It cost 8/6 by mail coach to Edinburgh to visit another sister, Jeanie, Mrs. Miller (immortalized, says family tradition, by Sir Walter Scott as Clara in his "modern" novel *St. Ronan's Well*). His father "took a loan of £5." on July 22, 1829, and in May the following year an entry reads "gave my father to buy clothes to take him to England, £1. 15. 0." and to a "poor soldier's widow to help her to go to America, 6d." while on January 30 he enjoyed himself at "a curling match played by candlelight" for the cost of 7d. He seems also to have done casual work as he records receiving "from Hospital £5." presumably for clerking or accounting.

Thomas wrote to him from New Brunswick, congratulating him on having found work. He continues,

I am very sorry that trade is so dull with you as it is likewise very dull here, although the poorer class is not quite so bad as with you as they mostly have a small house of their own and thereby need pay no

rent which is a great help for them. About the place I can give you but a very poor description of it as I could hardly describe it so [you] may form any idea of it as you can see nothing here but only burnt woods since the dreadful fire and before only green woods. As for myself I am still working in Mr. Abram's shipyard at present who is still carrying on ship-building though trade is very dull . . . .

Thomas had made a trip home in 1830, leaving, on his departure, £26 in the hands of his cousin Thomas Ramsay, for John. Cousin Thomas promptly offered John 4% on the money "if I allow it to ly with him which I think to do until my brother [Thomas] comes home".

John's interest in education was already marked and there still exists an essay which he wrote for a political club, in which he especially advocated the need for the education of women. He managed to attend Latin classes at the University of Glasgow and to read History with the aim of entering the Law. But, as a result of making enquiries on his behalf in Edinburgh, his brother-in-law Thomas Miller, advised him that there were too many young men aspiring to this end and that it cost too much to be articted to a lawyer. John looked at his profit and loss account and read:

In Mrs Pender's hands . . . . £16.

[he regularly banked  
his savings with his  
eldest sister]

In my own hands . . . . . 1. 17. 0.

£17. 17. 0.

So, perforce, he turned his eyes elsewhere.

On April 14, 1831, John saw his father sail for Montreal, Lower Canada. There, for a number of years, Robert worked as a saddler, building up a thriving business not

only in the city but also in the surrounding country.

Canada at this time, apart from the Maritime Provinces, was divided into Upper and Lower Canada. The latter had been settled by the French in the seventeenth century and, though surrendered to Britain, remained a religious and linguistic entity, deeply conscious of its origins and traditions; the former had been settled mainly by those of British blood who could not stomach republicanism and had cut their losses in the new United States, crossed the border and proceeded to carve out of the Ontario bush another colony for Britain. These two colonies, incompatible in many ways, together repelled the American invasion of 1812-14, but by the eighteen thirties differences had arisen between them. The French Canadian residents of Quebec resented the privileges and power enjoyed by the English-speaking minority in their province. When these English merchants and professional men promoted a bill which would unite the two provinces, giving greater representation to non-French areas and eliminating French as a language of government, there was an outcry against "les Anglais" and British immigrants found themselves unpopular. The residents of Upper Canada, though glad to have their land values raised by an influx of British immigrants, nevertheless resented the political viewpoint which they introduced and refused to acknowledge them as equals. "Old Country folk" were, therefore, *personae non gratae* for different reasons in both provinces, and provided a butt for the native-born in each, in two short, simultaneous, but quite separate and unsuccessful rebellions at the end of 1837. Robert, living at 63 St. Antoine Street, Montreal, wrote a graphic, breathless account to his brother David in Scotland.

There is no doubt but that you have heard that this country has been in a state of rebellion for this



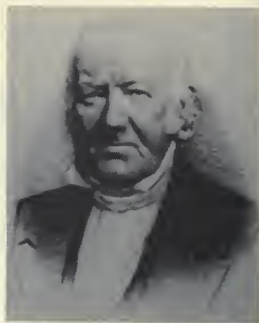
some time past and how it is to end no one can tell for all though it is subdued at present the spirit of it is still remaining unaltered in the great body of the Canadians and although they are crying out for the Queen and Loyalty yet when they have it in their power they act to the contrary when they fall in with a single one or two of the Old Country folks as they call them But no such spirit shews itself here [Montreal] as almost every man here is a soldier - of British extraction I mean. The Rebels made their first trial of strength here in the City on the 6th November when they had a meeting to lay their plans When a few of the Old Country folk had collected outside to hear pairt of what was going on the Canadans seeing them few in number at the conclusion of their meeting thought proper to attack them in the Street with sticks and stones and whatever they could lay their hands on when the Old Country folk were forced to retreat for a little way When there Brethren hearing of the matter ran from all quarters to their assistance when they drove back their oponents with many brocken heads and their General a T.S. Brown was prity much hurt and had it not been for a Mr Gunluck and a Mr Ashton he would have been much more so for they were just in time to save him for his antagonists were too much for him so they got him to a Doctrs house that was just at hand Some say it was a pity he got off as their is now £500. offered for him. Next about 500 attacked with firearms 18 Cavlerly who were escorting two prisoners to town They lay in ambush for them and fired on them rescued the prisoners and wounded two of the Cavlerly and a third a Mr J. Molson had a ball through his cap taking part of the hair with it but was no otherways hurt and I believe they were all in the Field of Battle in a few days after Troops being sent to a place called St Denis and another party being sent to St Charles where the rebels had collected with their

leaders at their head with cannon and plenty of the munitions of war Both places being in the same direction the Troops taking different routs Lieut Weir of the 32nd Regiment was sent with Despatches from Montreal but not being acquainted with the roads he was taken into St Denis to the Rebel Camp and made prisoner The Rebels hearing the Troops were coming upon them bound and sent him for St. Charles with a gaird They had not proceeded far on their road when his guards fell upon him and murdered him in too shocking a manner to repeat It is said that they have now got all his murderers in prison. His corps was afterwards brought to Montreal for interment when not less than 8,000 attended his funeral One would have thought that the whole city was in mourning and so much was he lamented that shops Taverns and stores of all kinds belonging to the Old Country people was shut up for a time that is to say for the afternoon. Another of these Rebels was binding a Loyalt<sup>t</sup> to a tree and shooting at him as they would a cock After a few days the troops attacked the band at St Charles routed and killed a great many of them and brunt a great part of the place. They were next drove from St. Denis and a good pairt likewise brunt Had they been at all successful the Canadian population was to rise in mass and kill all Old Country Folks and drive them into the St. Lawrence and seize their property They calculated on victory and considered that all was their own and their was between 2000 [the paper here is badly torn] collected to the North of the City ready to come on with [again the paper is torn here] but thanks be he who is the God of Battles gave it against them In the morning our enemies were crowing as it wer over us but when the news arrived in the afternoon they quickly disappeared from the street but they still had hop of success as the band to the North had got themselves entrenched at three different points and all Old Country

people had to flee for their lives and leave their property behind them. They were attacked in their strongholds completely routed and a great many killed and many more brunt to death in the Church and houses where they had posted themselves That was at a place called St. Eustach. The Troops then went to Grand Boule and St Benoit which gave in without firing a shot but both places were brunt to the ground with pairt of the Bell River and St. Coulastich they all being a nest of Rebels and had committed plunder over a great part of the Country around them but it is impossible to say how many lost their lives but their Families now begin to see that they want a Father or son and a gentl<sup>m</sup> who lives between St. Eustach and Grand Boule informed me the other day that there was 56 wanting in his neborhood which are all supposed to have gone to their long homes. There is Rebellion likewise in the Upper Province but it is thought that it will be put down with less loss of life if the Americans were withdrawn from the Rebel ranks and the great fear is that their interference will bring on War between the two countries but it is hoped it will not But the Americans cry out against our people for capturing a steam boat which was imployed by the Rebels if not belonging to them altogether with was imployed in carrying arms provisions etc. for their camp in sight of our peoples on the opposite shore. They attacked her brought her from her moorings and sent her over the Falls of Niagra. We have an account of a schooner being taken at Amhurstburg loaded with 400 stand of arms and 3 cannons and a large supply of munitions of war that they had robbed at Detroit and were taking them to the Rebels. They had fired on the Town The inhabitants had no arms but they collected pitchforks and what they could lay their hands on attacked her killing one man and taking 20 prisoners So much under Providence for Valour. The Weather (sic) from Kingston on Saturday last



Robert, father of  
John Ramsay of  
Kildalton



There is no doubt but you have learned that this Country has been in a  
state of rebellion for some time past and that it is to end in our control but  
although it is said that the spirit of the people is still remaining  
unaffected in the present state of affairs and although they are now called  
on to rise and fight yet when they hear it in their power they add to the  
contention rather than fall in with a single one of the old Country  
people as they call them but no such effect should be had as all  
most men here is a set of old hardy veterans I mean.  
The rebels made the first trial of their strength here in the City of Edinburgh  
when they had a meeting to lay their plans when a host of the old Country  
people had collected out side to hear what was going on the Gen-  
erals seeing them in numbers at the conclusion of the meeting  
then set out to attack them in the street with sticks stones and what  
ever they could lay their hands on when the old Country people were  
forced to retreat for a little way when their brethren hearing of  
the matter ran forward to their assistance when they were  
back thus opposed with many broken heads and their General a Sir  
J. Gordon was partly much hurt and had it not been for the quickness  
and a bit of luck he would have been much more so but they were just  
in time to save him but his wound was too much for him so they  
got him into a death house that was just a dead room day it was as if  
he got off as there is now 2000 offered for him not about 200 of them  
attacked with six arms & 12 Cavalry was single execution & 1000 more to  
Gordon then ran in with them and killed in them many of the fore-  
men and wounded 2 of the Cavalry and a third a Mr. Holman had  
a ball through his calf taking him to the hospital but as he was  
stronger than most and I believe they were all in the field of battle  
in a few days a great number being sent to the place called St. James and  
another sent to St. James where the rebels had erected  
with their leaders a great head man cannon and plenty of  
men who were both Cavalry being in the same direction the  
General having defeated them at the Battle of the 20th was sent  
with 2000 men to St. James but not being able to move  
the rebels he was forced to go to the rebels camp and was

Letter from Robert Ramsay, Montreal, to his brother David  
in Leith, 1838



say the weather made navigation open as in Summer  
The River here is higher than I ever seed it this day  
and it appears it has done a great deal of damage in  
the Town Make my best respects to Mr MacLean  
[a partner of Messrs Dow & Co., Distillers, Montreal,  
who appears to have been visiting Scotland at this  
moment: he was Robert's great friend and adviser  
during his life in Canada] Wishing you all again  
many happy returns of the season.

I remain

Yours truly

ROBT RAMSAY

I have been at this [Montreal] now this fourteen  
nights past now and again The capture of the  
schooner came on Saturday last and the river is  
over St. Antoine Street by Mr Watsons and no pas-  
sage on foot much damage done let Mr McLean  
know.

The letter is dated "1837 Janry 22," but the Montreal  
postmark is "Ja 23 1838". It travelled via New York, the  
stamp for that city being "Jan 29" and the receiving date  
at Leith is "Feb 28 A 1838". Robert had obviously made  
a New Year clerical error!

In 1851, Robert was married again, this time to Ann  
MacLennan of Lachute, Canada East, where he had  
acquired a farm. Alexander Stirling, a brother of his  
first wife, visited him there and was later drowned nego-  
tiating a nearby river. Robert died in September, 1857,  
at the age of eighty-four, and was buried in the Pres-  
byterian graveyard at Lachute.

Meantime, in Scotland, young John was casting round  
for a better job and was, in fact, considering offers of  
employment in both South Africa (Natal) and India when  
two things happened: firstly, his Uncle James Ramsay, a  
merchant in New Orleans, came home and half promised  
to take him back to the States; secondly, because of a

family interest in the Port Ellen Distillery, Isle of Islay, off the west coast of Argyll, he was sent there by his Uncle Ebenezer Ramsay (Procurator Fiscal of Clackmannanshire) to report on its management, which seemed unsatisfactory. The distillery had been developed from a malt mill erected in 1825 by Alexander Kerr MacKay and managed by a mutual kinsman, John Morrison from Alloa. The Fiscal had already sent his young son Eben for this purpose, but had received no word from him.

Owing to contrary winds, John Ramsay was landed at Glenchoiredail near McArthur's Head on the Sound of Islay. He had to make his way across the roadless eastern part of the island to Port Ellen. The distance as the crow flies is only about twelve miles, but on foot, through an unfamiliar wilderness of deep glens, rockbound hills, treacherous bog and heather moor, it was very considerably longer. The compass that he used to guide him on this occasion is still in the family's possession. Near Arivo-challum he encountered one of the MacDougalls, who loaned him a white pony to carry him over the last few miles of the journey.

On arrival he found that Eben had already sailed for home, bearing ill tidings of affairs at Port Ellen. John, however, was convinced that the distillery could be made to pay and wrote his uncle accordingly. Eben, refusing to have anything to do with it, was carried off (to John's great chagrin) by Uncle James to New Orleans.

At this juncture, Thomas Ramsay, John's eldest brother, arrived home from New Brunswick and it was finally agreed that John should go to Alloa for initiation into the art of distilling by James, a brother of John Morrison, and should then manage the Port Ellen Distillery at an annual salary of £150, while John Morrison would sell the product in Glasgow and Thomas would be respons-

ible for purchasing the necessary grain. It was soon evident that John Morrison was an impossible partner and Thomas threw his hand in, crossed the Atlantic once more and was believed to have lost his life in the Mexican War of 1836-37. The situation was saved by Major Adair, a peg-legged veteran of Waterloo, who, having taken a liking to John Ramsay, purchased the remaining years of the ground lease. The second son of the Fiscal, another Thomas Ramsay, now became a partner and John Morrison was excluded. Later John Morrison was installed in Ardinistle Distillery on the island, only to fail again and return to Glasgow an embittered man. The Glasgow agency was given to Mr. J. Richardson, who held it for many years.

In 1840, Walter Frederick Campbell of Shawfield and Islay, also much impressed by John's integrity and ability, exercised his right of preemption at the expiry of the lease, following the death of Major Adair, and purchased the distillery for £1,950, which equalled the highest bona fide bid, made by Alexander Craig of Wadeston Mills, Glasgow. Reimbursed by John for this amount, Walter Frederick had a completely new lease made out in John's name; also a lease for the farms of Cornabus and Kilnaughton on the neck of land connecting the peninsula of the Oa to the mainland of Islay - a part of the lands granted to Brian Vicar MacKay by Donald, Lord of the Isles, in the Gaelic Charter of 1408, one of the treasures of the Register House, Edinburgh.

John was now twenty-five years old and the proprietor of his own business. From this time he and his distillery prospered. His sister Margaret came to keep house for him at Cornabus, which he slated and modernized. It was, in fact, the first house in Islay to have a water closet. So effective were his farming methods that James





Johnston, a leading agriculturalist of the day, called the attention of the Islay tenants to Cornabus in a letter dated October 26, 1845, in which he pointed out that a large area of bogland on this farm had been very successfully drained. John was also the first to cultivate turnips in the parish. His farm statement at the end of ten years is of especial interest, being, as far as is known, the earliest detailed account of a modern farm in Islay. Generations of progressive farmers, Stirlings and Ramsays, in the Carse of Stirling, had bequeathed to him a deep love and an instinctive feeling for the land, and his early upbringing among them, added to his own intelligent observation, had shown him the methods best suited to its improvement. For many years he was to be a well-known contributor of articles on agricultural subjects to the *Glasgow Herald*, under the pseudonym of "Scottish Farmer".

Later, brother and sister were joined by another sister, Jeanie, Mrs. Miller, whose husband and infant daughter had died in one of the recurrent epidemics of fever caused by the faulty plumbing of the modern sanitary system in the New Town of Edinburgh.

At this same period the Ardinistle Distillery was run by two brothers, James and Andrew Stein, of another noted distilling family in Clackmannanshire, which was closely related to the Ramsays. This distillery had been known, at different times, as the Islay and the Kildalton Distillery; its buildings are now incorporated in the office block and bond houses of Laphroaig Distillery.

James Stein married Margaret Ramsay in 1848 and became John's manager at the Port Ellen Distillery, building the charming house on the edge of the village which they called Rosalind Cottage. It is now known as Tighcargaman, a misspelling of the original quarter land of Tigh-

carmagan, on which both it and Port Ellen stand. This arrangement allowed John to concentrate more on the mainland end of his business and entailed his being much in Glasgow, where he had a house in Madeira Court. This property he later sold to his future father-in-law, George Martin, who in turn sold it to the London, Midland and Scottish Railway as part of the site of the present Central Station.

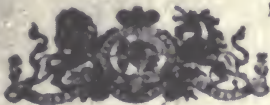
During these years all the Ramsay uncles and aunts had died. John Ramsay inherited a certain amount of capital, which made it possible for him to extend his business very considerably. He imported Sherry and Madeira wine (the casks used for these wines were considered beneficial for the maturing and colouring of whisky) and he was already exporting a large proportion of the Port Ellen output to the United States. The spirit safe which he invented was later adopted by the Customs and Excise and is still in use in every Scottish distillery. As a leading distiller, he was largely instrumental in obtaining duty free warehouses for maturing whisky. The earliest of these is still in use at Port Ellen. It was considered to be the finest maturing warehouse in Scotland but it has since been heightened and this may, possibly, have altered its character.

A great friendship had grown up between the Ramsays and the Campbells of Islay. The laird, Walter Frederick Campbell, who had made it possible for John Ramsay to purchase the distillery, had come to rely on the younger man's advice and opinions. Unfortunately they came too late. For a century and a quarter the Campbells had striven against traditional prejudice to improve and modernize the island by introducing new methods of farming, building farmsteadings and villages, and endeavouring to start up light industries. The years of internal peace and

Distiller's Licence.

No.

No.



WE, whose Names are hereunto subscribed and Seals set, being the  
COLLECTOR OF EXCISE OF

Collection,\* and the Supervisor of Excise of  
District within the said Collection, in pursuance of the Acts of Parliament  
in such case made and provided do hereby licence and empower

Being at *Port Ellen* in the Parish of  
*North Ayr* in the County of *West Dunbartonshire*

and within the said Collection, to exercise or carry on the Trade or Bu-  
siness of a Distiller or Maker of Low Whisky or Spirits at

(being described by the said

as only one separate and distinct set of Premises, all adjoining or conti-  
guous to each other, and situate in one Place and held together for the  
same Trade or Business,) and so where else, from the Day of the Date  
hereof, until and upon the Tenth Day of October next ensuing, he  
having paid the Sum of

for this Licence to the said Collector of Excise.

Dated this *19* Day of *April*

in the Year of our Lord 18*83*

*James Ramsay*  
*John Ramsay*

*James Ramsay* Collector.



*John Ramsay*

Supervisor.



Renewal of Licence.

Every Person intending to continue the Trade or Business for which a Licence has been granted,  
is to give notice of his intention to the Collector or Supervisor at least Twenty-one Days before the  
Expiration of his current Licence. If such Notice be so given, the new Licence shall bear Date  
from the Expiration of his current Licence. If such Notice be not so given, the Licence shall bear  
Date from the Day of the Trader's Application for it.

Penalty for carrying on the above Trade without taking out or renewing Licence at the proper  
time, £200.

Distiller's license for John Ramsay, Port Ellen, 1836

comparative plenty since the Rebellion of 1745 along with an influx of labour on the reopening of the lead mines and the introduction of the kelp industry (the burning of seaweed to produce potash), had all vastly increased the population, from approximately five to fifteen thousand. This increase produced the further problems of inbreeding and its attendant ills. Added to all this was the muddled incompetency of the factor, on whose financial statements the laird relied.

At the request of Walter Frederick Campbell, John Ramsay went through the ill-kept estate accounts with the factor, but his findings only emphasized the sorry financial position.

To understand the attitude of the people it is necessary to know the old Highland setup prior to the eighteenth century, whereby the chief gave to cadet (junior) branches of his family a "tack", or indefinite lease (usually unwritten) of land, for which they paid silver (money) rent, rent in kind, and a quota of armed men when required. The tacksmen, thereupon, sublet the land to lesser men of the clan who, in their turn, employed crofters to work it for them, giving them a site for their cottages, cow land and a proportion of the crop. Thus, this third class of people received no wages and paid no rent. By preference, the families of the tacksmen engaged in military pursuits, often enlisting as mercenaries in the armies of the continent when not required for clan warfare at home. They were followed by the men of the subtenants and the able-bodied youth from among the crofters, whose greatest ambition was to excel as warriors. Sometimes younger sons would engage in trading ventures. The net result was that the land was worked in a very primitive manner by the less able men and the women at their own time and speed.





Walter Frederick  
Campbell of Shawfield  
and Islay, the last  
Campbell laird of Islay



Lady Eleanor, wife of Walter Frederick  
Campbell of Shawfield and Islay, at  
Ardimersay

After the Rebellion of 1745, a steady stream of tacksmen's families, often accompanied by their subtenants, emigrated to the New World or joined the British or East India Company's armed forces. In 1738-39-40, over four hundred people left Islay for the New England colonies. Thus the static population of the island continued to be the crofters. The Shawfield plan was to elevate the more promising of these to the state of tenant farmers and to guide others into light industries, so that the burden of over population might be lifted from the arable land. At no time in their history had these crofters worked for wages, their time had been their own, and, because of the frequent absences of their superiors, they had come to look on the land as theirs. Though this gave them an independence of spirit, it certainly was not conducive to their acceptance of modern leases for fixed periods and stated rents, with provisions against subletting; nor did they favour regular work for wages in the various light industries which were introduced. They were, moreover, almost entirely Gaelic-speaking and largely uneducated, which made them slow to accept modern concepts of progress and contemporary thought. The result was that they remained on the land in greatly increasing numbers, subdividing it more and more as sons and grandsons grew up.

So, to a large extent, the population explosion had nullified the schemes for improvement. By 1846, with uneconomic lead mines, the collapse of the kelp industry due to the importation of Spanish barilla after the Napoleonic Wars, a series of exceedingly wet years which had brought disease to their staple food, the potato, and ruined the cereal crop, and also because the market price available for their cattle had dropped considerably, the people reached starvation level. The laird and his more

prosperous tenants did all they could, but the following year they had to apply to the Highland Relief Committee, hastily set up for the express purpose of giving aid to the stricken areas. The following letter from John Ramsay to the secretary of the committee, vividly presents the case for Islay.

Having heard that Dr Boyter has been in Islay to report to your Committee the state of the Island, I take leave to call attention to our case, as I regret to learn that Dr Boyter was only a short time here and may possibly not bring it in this way under your notice.

During the past season of suffering and privation the proprietor and tenants of Islay, feeling that it was of paramount importance at such a time to cherish a feeling of independence have from their own private resources given employment to the people on useful and advantageous works throughout the Island without applying to your Committee except to a very limited extent for their aid. Much has been done and many sacrifices made for the support of the people and for the encouragement among them of habits of industry. The resources of the people are now, however, exhausted and there is great reason to fear that the crops grown this year will be quite inadequate for the support of the inhabitants of Islay, and it is therefore a subject for anxious consideration to see how this shortcoming is to be supplied.

One of the works carried on to employ the people and to prevent them suffering from want of food, is the formation of a road [the present high road between Bridgend and Port Ellen], through a district of country held chiefly by small tenants, the land being mostly waste though very capable of improvement. On this work an expense of labour has already been incurred of not much under £1,000. Indeed I believe the expenditure now exceeds that sum,

though one half of the line is not yet finished and the part that is done is not available as the outlets from it to the present main road have not been touched. I know of nothing more important to promote the prosperity of the large population living in the district which this road passes through than its early completion, for as the existing roads are not only very circuitous (at times I believe quite impassable) the people are shut out from the markets for their produce and prevented from going on with that system of cultivation which alone in their circumstances can render them independant. The quantity of potatoes grown on their holdings in this year is not near enough to support their families and already I regret to say there is a general complaint of their partial failure. The name given to the district - Canada - indicates that the population consider themselves shut out from the more fertile districts of the Island.

My object in addressing you is to solicit that you will bring the matter under the notice of your Committee and obtain a grant to finish the road with the necessary works connected with it, and this will require a sum of not less than £1500. to £2000: in doing so the Committee will confer a great benefit on the people of the district and indeed on the whole Island.

I don't know that I require to urge any argument in support of our claim, I might with justice appeal to the exertions made by the proprietor and the tenants to get on without support as one of the best reasons why the Committee should aid us now that our own resources are exhausted and as a large sum is still at your disposal, I trust that we may receive the most favourable consideration.

If my views should meet with your approval I would suggest if I may take leave to offer an opinion on this point that the Committee request Dr Boyter to revisit the Island and examine the merits



of the case. I feel assured that anyone when on the spot will in the circumstances second my request, and to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding as to the proper expenditure of the money, the Committee could not do better than appoint a qualified person to superintend operations and pay out the money.

There is another work of importance to the Island to which the Committee should agree to allow Dr Boyter to examine our claims, I would respectfully direct attention viz. the improvement and increase of the quay accommodation at Bowmore. I am not prepared to state what sum would be required to accomplish this, but a minute examination and measurement may be made when Dr Boyter is on the spot and from this the Committee would judge of the propriety of granting funds.

When I had the pleasure of seeing you I had hoped that no such application as this would be necessary: but since my return home I have been through the district (the poorest in the island) I have referred to, and having seen the condition of people and the inadequacy of their crops to support them, I feel I ought not to lose a moment in bringing the case under your notice as it cannot be expected that a Landlord can go on impoverishing himself for the purpose of improving the condition of a class of tenants from whom he receives little or no rent.

I hope to be in Glasgow soon when I shall have the pleasure of waiting on you, and I will be happy to afford any explanation that may be desired.

& I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(signed) J. RAMSAY

C.R. Baird, Esq.,  
Glasgow.



Port Ellen and the stone-walled parks behind the distillery

P.S. Since writing the within I learn that Dr Boyter came here casually with Sir Edward Coffin and not as I had been previously informed to report to your Committee. To prevent misunderstanding or delay I may state here that I have communicated the purport of this letter to Mr Campbell of Islay and am perfectly satisfied that his views coincide with what I have written here. He will be too happy to know that the means are provided for employing the people in the way I have pointed out: as his only objection to his receiving aid has ever been the danger arising from its gratuitous Distribution.

J.R.

This was followed by an even more detailed letter from George T. Chiene, Chamberlain of Islay, enclosing the answers to queries set by Sir Edward Coffin, the representative of the British government.

Some help was forthcoming but it was not sufficient, and the high road, running at the foot of the hills across a great stretch of moorland between Bridgend and Port Ellen, remained unfinished for many years. The laird did succeed in obtaining a grant from the Enclosures Commissioners of £30,000, to be expended on land drainage within a period of three years. Another necessary public work was the enlargement of quays built for sailing vessels in order that steamers could be accommodated, and Walter Frederick Campbell succeeded, also, in securing an Act of Parliament for the erection of new harbour facilities at Port Ellen. Just then, the failure of an Islay merchant whose bills he had backed put the Campbell finances into such bad condition that the Estate was sequestered, or removed from Mr. Campbell's possession, until the demands of his creditors could be satisfied. The



Trustees' accounts show that the arrears of rent, carried on for many years, stood on December 2, 1847, at

Farms . . . .	£25,016.	5.	6.
Villages . . . .	7,079.	9.	11.
	£32,095.	15.	5.

At the request of Mr. Campbell, his elder son, John Francis, (later to be famous as the editor of the *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*) and John Ramsay acted as his trustees throughout the period of the sequestration. James Brown, an Edinburgh accountant, was chosen commissioner for the creditors and for six years administered the estate, during which period there were a number of enforced evictions, especially from the leadmining district of Kilmeny. The Campbells retired to live in Avranches, in Normandy, but John Ramsay and his widowed sister, Mrs. Miller, immediately offered to adopt their younger son, Walter, and their third daughter, Violet, in order that the children might at least be brought up in their own country. Walter Frederick, however, declined the offer, saying that the children were now all that was left to his wife and himself and that they would strive to keep them. The whole family were forced to live in very meagre circumstances and Mr. Campbell died in 1855.

Not until 1853 was a sale effected to James Morrison of Basildon, in competition with James Baird of Gartsherrie, at £451,000. Previous to the public roup (a sale involving sealed bids) it had been agreed between James Morrison and John Ramsay that if the former succeeded in purchasing the island, the latter would relieve him of part of the parish of Kildalton, with an option on the remainder at a later date. Thus by two missives (contract-

ing letters) dated May 9 and 15, 1855, John came into possession of all lands lying north and east of Port Ellen Bay and east of the line of the present high road from Port Ellen to Bridgend as far as McArthur's Head on the Sound of Islay. In May, 1858, he bought the lands which he held under lease and those immediately adjoining with them. The total of these purchases being £82,265, plus, of course, the various charges on the lands such as arrears of rent, money spent on drainage, etc. The first purchase included Ardimersay Cottage situated on a peninsula northeast of Port Ellen, a charming reed-thatched Regency pavilion, which was to be John's much-loved home for many years.

Before catastrophe fell upon him, Walter Frederick Campbell had encouraged John Ramsay to buy a steamer for the purpose of running a cargo service between the islands and Glasgow. This was the *Modern Athens* and from now on he owned or had an interest in several boats and also in the fast sailing ships trading with the East Indies. One unscheduled trip was made by the *Modern Athens* when she was chartered to convey the men of Islay, Kintyre and Knapdale to greet Queen Victoria at Inveraray in 1847. The County Committee issued precise instructions.

It shall be the duty of the Captain to exact a fare of ten Shillings and to admit no person except those mentioned in the list furnished . . . the amount of these fares to be deducted from the freight of the boat. Islay's [i.e. Walter Frederick's] men or any other men dressed in Highland Garb in attendance on County Gentlemen for the purpose of acting as police not to be charged any fare.

Five hundred men in full Highland dress are said to have gone from Islay alone.

**NOTE** The Freight of Goods for Ports where there are no Agents requires to be Prepaid. Shippers are particularly requested to mark distinctly on the Address the Port at which Goods are to be Landed.

# STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GLASGOW, PORT-ELLEN, PORT-ASKAIG, PORT-RUSH, AND WEST TARBERT. &c.



On and after **MONDAY, the 6th MAY,**  
THE STEAMER

# "ISLAY."

**CAPTAIN M'NEILL,**

Will sail with **PASSENGERS** and **GOODS**, as under, and call at any other Place that may be agreed upon, unless prevented by the Weather or any unforeseen cause, and with liberty to tow or assist Vessels in distress.

## From Glasgow for Port-Ellen and Port-Askaig,

**MONDAYS, at 6 a.m.** ..... per Cal. Rail (Bridge-st. Station) to Greenock at 7 40 a.m.

## From Port-Askaig for West Tarbert.

**TUESDAYS, ..... at 6 30 a.m.**

## From West Tarbert for Port-Ellen.

**TUESDAYS, ..... about 10 noon.**

\* \* **PASSENGERS** for ISLAY leaving Glasgow on Tuesdays by the "IUNA" (or other Steamer), advertised to sail at 7 a.m., may land at East Tarbert, join the Islay at West Tarbert, and thence be conveyed to Port-Ellen; and Passengers from Port-Askaig on Tuesdays may get from East Tarbert to Glasgow by the same Steamer.

## From Glasgow for Port-Ellen and Port-Rush.

**THURSDAYS, at 2 p.m.** ..... per Cal. Rail (Bridge-st. Station) to Greenock at 4 50 p.m.

## From Port-Ellen for Port-Rush.

**FRIDAYS, ..... about 10 Noon.**

## From Port-Rush for Glasgow.

**FRIDAYS, ..... about 6 p.m.**

## From Port-Ellen for Glasgow

**TUESDAYS, ..... about 6 p.m. (FRIDAYS, ..... (by Port-Rush) ..... about 12 noon.**

**NOTE**—All Live Stock intended for Shipment at Port-Askaig or Port-Ellen on Tuesdays for Greenock or Glasgow, must be booked with the Steamer's Agent at Port-Ellen, not later than 4 p.m. on the previous day. The terms and conditions on which Live Stock may be booked and shipped for conveyance by this vessel may be learned on application to the Agents. The Freight must be paid before shipment, and the Stock must be accompanied by a person in charge, and the Shippers or Owners thereof must take all the risks of shipment, conveyance, and landing. The Owners are not responsible for Dogs, nor for Luggage, unless paid and signed for.

For further information apply to **JAMES CALDWELL**, Port-Rush; **ALEX. M'DOUGALL**, Port-Ellen; **ALEX. SHANKS**, Port-Askaig; **JOHN DAWSON**, Greenock; or at Steamer's Office, 49 Dunlop Street, Glasgow.

GLASGOW, 26th April, 1872.

The S.S. *Islay*, owned by John Ramsay of Kildalton and Charles Morrison of Islay. From a poster

John's cargo boats went as far north as Stornoway and the business thrived, but in 1855 he withdrew from this northern trade and persuaded Charles Morrison, eldest son of James of Basildon, to become half-owner of the *Islay*, a steamer purchased by Walter Frederick Campbell for the benefit of the island, in which several distillers had a share, John Ramsay's being the largest. He then concentrated on a bi-weekly cargo and passenger service between Islay and Glasgow, including calls at Port Rush in Northern Ireland and West Loch Tarbert on the Argyll mainland.

During the sixties, when John Ramsay was elected M.P. for the Stirling boroughs, there was a sudden panic lest he be disqualified owing to his copartnership in the *Islay*, which was in receipt of a yearly subsidy of £150 for carrying the Royal Mail. The ownership of the boat was therefore transferred to Charles Morrison, though John continued its management until they sold in 1878 to David Hutcheson, the pioneer in daily steamship services to the Western Isles (his boats were described in 1868 as "gorgeous floating saloons"). Hutcheson was succeeded by his young partner, David MacBrayne, whose name is now almost synonymous with the West of Scotland.

Throughout the country at this time there was much concern over the growth of pauperism and the problem in Islay was causing great anxiety. Writing to Charles Morrison of Islay (who had succeeded his father James) John says,

Assuming the population to be 11,000 at this date (25th November 1859) the Paupers on the Roll are 540, but this does not include the children of the paupers who are supported from the Rates although their names are not mentioned - this brings the actual number above 600. So that in Islay instead



of one pauper for every twenty-three self supporting members of Society [the National average] we have one pauper for every sixteen self supporting members . . . .

Under the Scottish Poor Law Bill, passed in 1845, the three parishes of Islay had been united as a Poor Law Combination (the only one in Scotland). Because communication between the parishes was difficult, this was very soon found to be a cumbrous and ineffective way of dealing with the problem and efforts were made in 1848 and again in 1859 to dissolve the union, but it appeared that there was no legal provision under the Act for such a dissolution. This was not achieved until John finally consulted the Lord Advocate for Scotland, who suggested that it could be accomplished by parliamentary action. Mr. A.M. Dunlop, Member for Greenock agreed to handle a bill for this purpose in the House of Commons and the Duke of Argyll undertook to do the same in the House of Lords. Eventually the three parishes were separated and thus enabled to deal more effectively with the distressing problem within their own boundaries, before having recourse to sending the individuals concerned to the poor house which it was now proposed should be erected by the Poor Law Board. John Ramsay asked that Charles Morrison, in gifting a site, should choose one sufficiently near Bowmore, to allow the Superintendent of the Poor and the minister to visit regularly, but above all to allow the children to attend the village school so that they need not feel outcast by being educated separately. This Charles did. The poor house (now demolished to make way for the new hospital and home for the elderly) was built on the edge of Bowmore, at Gartanvogie.

Since his first purchase in 1855, John had pushed ahead

with drainage and general improvements in the hope that by so doing he could help to lift the mass of the tenants out of the depths to which they had sunk. His letters to intimate friends show how hopeless the task seemed to be, though he never fully lost hope. At the end of five years as a landowner, he wrote to John Stewart Hepburn of Colquhalzie,

I have completed the drainage of above 200 acres near Port Ellen and have enclosed as much of this with stone walls. I am going on with the drainage and enclosure of about 60 acres which adjoin Cornabus and I hope to have nearly the half of it ready for turnips this season. My process is to drain and enclose and then to get as great a breadth under turnips as I have manure for, eat down the turnip crop with sheep on the ground and then a crop of bere [barley] sown down with grasses and let the land at the best rent I can get. I have found it needful to lay out drainage improvements in the village of Port Ellen, erecting a new female school and teachers dwelling and the improvement of the farm houses of several of the tenants. In consequence of the division of my outlay bearing a large proportion to the gross expenditure, my rental has not increased so much as the amount expended but I have now got past some of the most costly work . . . . . About the Cottage [Ardimersay] I have drained more extent of moss land and cleared away part of the brushwood to make room for the grass to grow, but the difficulty there is to exclude the deer from the land under improvement . . . . . I have done nothing yet to the property which I bought from Mr Morrison in 1858 - except Cornabus it is all in the hands of small tenants and it is not easy with them to even make a beginning. I am sorry to say I cannot discern much improvement among the people. The villagers were very poor when I got the property and some of them are now deeper in debt than they were five



years ago. I really do not know what to do with them as they are helpless when the land is taken from them and merely sink till they get on the Poor Roll . . . .

Charles Morrison now approached him regarding the purchase of the rest of the parish of Kildalton and Oa, but he was very reluctant to buy any more land and suggested that possibly Smith Child, the banker, who had married Miss Campbell of Jura and was looking for an estate in the area, might consider this portion. Child wrote to John, asking whether he thought that such a purchase would be "a good investment," to which John replied,

I am not a good judge of the Oa as an investment but from what I have heard I think it probable that if people were removed and some improvements made on the better part of the land, it could be made a good sheep grazing. My views, however, regarding such removals are so much in unison with your own that I could not like to meddle with any improvement which involved the removal of any tenants. My feeling regarding the place is that you might in time be able to get a considerable part of the land into your own hands by taking advantage of the death of any tenants and of voluntary emigration - but I am not of the opinion that the rents in Islay will bear any such increase as in Mull. Most of the land on my property is held without lease and I believe I could get the tenants to promise me a considerable advance were I to ask this with the alternative of leaving their farms, but my anxiety is to see the tenants once in such circumstances as to enable them to pay their present rents punctually and I fear that either with or without leases it will be a long time before they are in this state. One thing that I can say is that if you do buy the Oa you will find the tenants, although poor, a very quiet inoffensive race.



Ardinersay Cottage, 1832, with Lady Eleanor, Walter Frederick and John Francis Campbell in the foreground. From a water colour by Heath



Eliza Shields of Lanchester, first wife of John Ramsay of Kildalton

The fact of the matter was that the thin-soiled peninsula of the Oa was vastly overpopulated and its pockets of arable soil had become sour through improvising methods of cultivation. In 1839, three small farms in the central glen housed eleven families with a total of seventy-five souls; in 1860 the figures were seventeen families with a total of ninety-four people. These farms today barely support three small families, aided by government grants. The problem was enormous and letter after letter from John Ramsay shows his great concern and sense of responsibility for the welfare of the people on his estate.

Finally, Child purchased a wedge of land based on the Sound of Islay, which is now the Dunlossit estate, and from which the bulk of the small tenants had been evicted by the Commissioner for Bankruptcy. At the same time, John Ramsay reluctantly agreed to buy the Oa and Laggan under the same conditions as on previous occasions, that is, relieving Charles Morrison of all burdens on the land like arrears of rent, "excepting only the arrears of the tenants of Upper and Lower Killeyan which will be settled by you [Charles Morrison] as they leave at Whitsunday next."

These tenants were, however, to prove difficult. Upper Killeyan is a small farm of approximately 452 acres, mostly consisting of moor and bog, perched on the three hundred foot cliffs of the Mull of Oa and exposed to all the winds of the Atlantic. There were four tenants, who with their families numbered twenty-nine souls, and they had all intimated to Charles Morrison their intention to leave the island. On the understanding that this farm was to be vacant at the date of his entry, John Ramsay allocated it to a single tenant from another overcrowded farm. When, by Whitsunday, 1861, the Killeyan tenants had not removed, Charles Morrison said he would try to

provide them with farms on his side of the island. This, however, proved impossible and as the Kildalton Estate was already so crowded, John Ramsay could not do so either. By May, 1862, they had resolved to emigrate and being illiterate and only Gaelic-speaking, a petition was drawn up on their behalf by the Reverend James Dewar, minister of the Oa, which they signed by mark, asking Charles Morrison for assistance to take them to Canada. This he gave and they sailed for Toronto aboard the *Damascus* on June 28, 1862.

Provision for such tenants was a matter of great concern and in his decision to purchase the whole parish of Kildalton (which included the parish of the Oa) John hoped to be able to make a fair trial of measures to arrest the increase of pauperism and to bring some chance of prosperity to his tenants. To Charles Morrison he wrote,

My possession of land for the last few years has much modified the opinion which I at one time entertained, as to the powers which its possession confers on the holder to do good to the population. I entered in the possession that as proprietor I might accomplish more than I could as tenant - but I now have cause to doubt whether this has been realised in a moral point of view and truly should the result prove that I am unable to improve and benefit the people I will have altogether missed my mark. I have not, however, as yet ceased to hope . . . I hope you will not think of selling the rest of your property in Islay, as your doing so would cause me much anxiety and regret . . . it is not many of the Highland proprietors who direct their personal attention to the moral and intellectual improvement of the people on their land and were you to sell I should dread the risk of your estate coming into the hands of one who would buy it only for sport or profit and carry out plans in



utter disregard of the interests and feelings of the people.

Charles Morrison did not sell any more land and in the difficult years to come the two men worked in close harmony for the betterment of their estates and the tenants thereon.

Since the potato famine in the West of Scotland, John Ramsay had given the problem of over population much thought and had investigated various possible solutions. The conclusions he came to are expressed in a paper, notable for its deep concern, thought and research, which he read in Edinburgh to the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. Pointing out the disadvantage of a purely Gaelic-speaking community, he said,

It is by some erroneously supposed that the desire to promote instruction in English implies an opposition to Gaelic. I do not admit this: no comparison of the merits of the two languages is involved. Gaelic may be the most ancient and by far the most expressive, but it is undoubtedly true that a knowledge of both can be no bar to improvement, and it is surely no disparagement to Gaelic to say that a poor Highlander, who can only find employment where English is spoken, should be taught to speak it.

He summed up his opinion,

that the cause of periodical destitution in the Highlands, though varied by many conflicting elements, has been the excessive dependance of the people upon the produce of the soil, and the lack of sufficient application and effort to procure supplies from other sources for the increase in their number: and if so the remedy as plainly appears to be the local development of industry, so as to provide a greater supply of remunerative employment: the removal of obstacles which hinder people in their efforts to



help themselves - the promotion for increased facilities for intercourse with the mainland: the aid and encouragement of spontaneous migration: and chiefly and above all and with a view to attain all, the diffusion of the blessings of a sound English education.

With all this in mind, Ramsay did persuade many small communities, especially in the Oa, to emigrate to Canada as entities, believing that the future there held out much for the younger people and that as their elders would not be separated from them, they would not feel the uprooting quite so poignantly. For those who did decide to emigrate he made things as easy as possible: arrears of rent were cancelled, their stock was bought in order to give them ready cash, and arrangements were made with the Allan Steamship Company for much reduced fares on steamers, which were a great advance on the old decrepit sailing ships in which so many earlier emigrants had journeyed. John Ramsay was prepared to pay the fares if necessary, but the bulk of the emigrants paid their own fares or refunded them to John when in a position to do so.

The Reverend John MacTavish, son of the parish minister and member of a family famous in the annals of Argyll and Canada, was minister at Woodville, Ontario, in the area in which so many Islay folk were to make their homes and where earlier emigrants of the thirties and forties had already settled. He was ready to help them on their arrival, not only with their spiritual needs but also with material necessities, particularly those lacking or with very little knowledge of English, who might so easily have fallen prey to adventurers.

The emigration facilities were extended to the whole island and Charles Morrison and Smith Child backed

those who wished to emigrate, in the same manner as John Ramsay. The organisation of emigrants from the parish of Kilmeny was in the hands of Charles MacNeil, of an old Islay family, who also had relatives in Canada and knew the advantages to be reaped there. The following is a letter from him to John Ramsay.

Lossit, Islay.  
13th July 1863.

My dear Sir,

It was very kind of you to write to me on the subject of the emigrants from this quarter, who I hope will all be in readiness to start tomorrow, that is, so many of them as are in a condition to go. I have explained to them the necessity of attending to all the rules for their guidance, and hope they will comply with them. I expect that Mr Shanks will accompany them to Greenock which will be a great boon to the poor creatures, many of whom never left Islay, and are quite ignorant of what they ought to do in their new position; only that their desire to get to Canada is unprecedentedly great, and they wish to get away at all hazards while the facilities are afforded them, and I would like to see many more of them remove for their own sakes for last Winter and Spring was a severe ordeal to them in many respects, and they anticipate no better fate during the ensuing season, should they remain as at present. They are fortunately meeting with good weather which will cheer them on their way and I have no doubt that they will also meet with good treatment, which will perhaps induce the friends they left behind to wish to follow them next season . . . .

This emigration of about four hundred Islay people during the years 1862-3 brought a spate of angry or sarcastic letters to the press, written over *nom de plumes*.

They were thought to come largely from Islaymen long settled comfortably in Glasgow, who accused John Ramsay of "enforced removals". Many years later when the Crofters' Act was brought forward, the howl was raised again. It is still fashionable, on both sides of the Atlantic, to believe that all emigrants were forcibly removed from their holdings and that emigration was not only a sad, but also a disastrous affair for them. This is by no means true. A very great number of Highlanders, realising the gravity of their circumstances, emigrated voluntarily, although they were unhappy to leave their native land. One fact, however, stands out above all: that those who did emigrate, whether voluntarily or not, benefited themselves and their descendants, despite the initial hardships, in a way which would have been impossible for them in their lovely, rugged, overpopulated and unprofitable homeland.

Among much correspondence, there is one particular letter from an Islayman - Alexander Bell, of Sunnidale Corner, Ontario - who had emigrated voluntarily in 1843, and revisited Islay in 1883. Mr. Bell writes with admiration of the change wrought by John Ramsay during the intervening years and, referring to the outburst in the press against him, has little good to say of his critics, "people who think they can manage very well other people's business, though they cannot manage their own". John, himself, made a very effective speech in the House of Commons [Hansard 14.11.1888], drawing on his long and intimate knowledge of the situation. He sincerely believed that voluntary emigration to Canada (as opposed to migration to other parts of Britain) was the right solution to Islay poverty and lack of opportunity, and was more than ever convinced of this when he visited the Islay people in their new homes in 1870 for the purpose

of satisfying himself that they were, in fact, doing well.

His diary of this visit, which is now published for the first time (though it was privately printed for distribution among interested friends), relates what he saw and what he heard from the emigrants themselves, as to how they had burgeoned in a manner which would have been impossible in Islay so long as the population had remained so thick upon the land. He noted with pleasure and some surprise how, once removed from the clan aura, they worked willingly for wages in the summer, thus providing themselves with capital to clear their holdings in the winter, sow their crops the following spring, and regularly pay off the price of their farms. He saw, too, how much the women's housewifery had progressed from the kail pot and bannocks to the baking of real bread of wheaten flour (wheat does not ripen readily in Islay), and contrasted the neat, bright cleanliness of their Canadian houses with the mud-floored, turf-roofed dark cottages, veiled in peat reek, which seemed to crouch against the wind and rain of the Atlantic gales. The older people did complain of the bitter winters, but nevertheless, they had settled well, had all the necessities of life, and were glad to see their families prospering and to be with them.

John brought his bride, Eliza Shields of Lanchester, to Ardimersay in 1857. She was a gentle creature with a particular interest in the spread of education, a matter very close to John's heart. Together they travelled through the Western Islands, visiting and founding schools as far north as Lewis. A published letter of John's to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, "The State of Education in the Outer Hebrides, 1862," is informative, detailed, sympathetic and constructive. In Islay, educational facilities were perhaps better than elsewhere in the islands.



In the early years of the century, Walter Frederick Campbell and his uncle Walter Campbell of Sunderland had done much to establish efficient schools, a policy continued by John Ramsay and Charles Morrison. To begin with, the buildings were much superior, the Campbells having laid down that new cottages should have walls of stone and lime (not the old dry stone construction) and these must be a certain height to the eaves, "having gabled ends with built-in chimneys in the English manner, the roofs to be slated". Though few of the roofs complied with this last provision, the new cottages, which included the schools, were a great improvement on the so-called black houses, such Hebrides cottages as John Francis Campbell described vividly in 1860:

. . . built of a double wall of loose boulders, with a layer of peat three feet thick between the walls, the ends round, and the roof rests on the inner walls, leaving room for a crop of yellow gowans [corn marigolds]. A man might walk round the roof on top of the wall. There is but one room with two low doors, one on each side of the house. The fire is on the floor; the chimney is a hole above it; and the rafters are hung with pendants and festoons of black peat reek. They are of birch . . . American drift wood, or broken wreck. They support a covering of turf and straw, and stones and heather ropes, which keep the rain out well enough . . .

Such a cottage in Islay figures as an illustration to Penant's *Tour In Scotland*, published in the 1770's, but of these there were comparatively few left in Islay during the nineteenth century.

It will, however, be readily understood that though picturesque, they were not suitable for the upbringing of large families nor for educational establishments. It is not to be wondered that tuberculosis was so prevalent





Old houses at Lower Killeyan, the Oa

and it was the knowledge that this and other ills were on the increase that gave rise to the anxiety of thinking men. The bulk of the inhabitants were undoubtedly of high intelligence and many, as Dr. Arthur Mitchell wrote, "have a potential though undeveloped greatness". One fact emerges throughout history: that the latent abilities of the Highlander are more fully developed when he leaves his mountain and island fastnesses for the outer world.

In providing the spur of education in Islay, the greatest difficulties lay in the lack of roads and means of transport. This meant that a disproportionate number of schools had to be provided for what was, in effect, a littoral population. There is a list of Islay schools visited by John Ramsay in December and January 1860-61 numbering twenty-nine, with an enrolled total of 1,519 pupils. In the parish of Kildalton there were ten schools (four of them in the Oa); two more seem to have been temporarily closed at that time. The original village school in Port Ellen, founded by Walter Frederick Campbell, together with the Free Church School and the Female School, were finally incorporated in the present one built by the school board. There was much dissension regarding its site, given by John Ramsay. He argued that a rocky promontory, central to the village and swept by the clean sea breezes, was a healthier place than a boggy field behind the village, in close proximity to its privies and garbage heaps. A new school was also built at Risabus in the middle of the Oa. The remaining schools were replaced by those at Kintour, Glenegedale lots (both of which have been closed since World War II) and Ardbeg, all erected by John and Eliza Ramsay. Even though several of the schools were supported by a church or society, the onus of finding suitable schoolteachers and

paying their salaries long fell upon John, and there is an immense correspondence on the matter among the Kildalton Papers. On three different occasions, (1869, 78, 82) John was appointed to a Royal Commission on Scottish Education, and as an M.P., he shepherded the Scottish Education Bill through Parliament.

It was Eliza who introduced the stand pumps into the village of Port Ellen so that the inhabitants would not need to carry their water half a mile from Tober Mairi. To the fury of her husband, the people threw rubbish into the wells which fed the pumps and continued to fetch their water from the distant spring. During the next decade there were those who accused John Ramsay of not having supplied the village with water!

Eliza died in Glasgow in 1864 of what we now know to have been appendicitis, but at the time the surgeons had not discovered the saving operation. Her plan to build a modern school and teacher's house above Ardbeg, to replace the old one at Lagavulin, was carried out by John after her death. Charles Morrison designed the memorial tablet of Islay blue stone on the porch gable. The building is on a knoll, on which trees were planted, with a view over an archipelago of rocky islets to the long line of the Kintyre peninsular and the jagged peaks of the Isle of Arran.

Lonely and dispirited, plagued by mudslingers, one of the chief of whom was John Morrison, late of Port Ellen and Ardinistle Distilleries, to whom he had finally to write a very straight letter, John nevertheless pulled himself together and continued the work that he and Eliza had done so much to forward.

Ramsay was asked to stand as Member for Glasgow in 1866, but was defeated. Two years later he was returned for the Stirling boroughs, only to be defeated by his pre-



Water colour sketch of Port Ellen c. 1850, by Margaret Ramsay Stein



vious opponent, Henry Campbell (later to be Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Prime Minister), at the ensuing general election. In 1874, however, he again entered Parliament as the Member for the Falkirk boroughs, a seat he held until his retirement in 1885. In particular he piloted the Scottish Education and Scottish Lunacy Bills, both matters of especial interest to him, the latter being largely the work of his great friend, Sir James Cox, and his cousin, Dr. (afterwards Sir) Arthur Mitchell. In 1869, he was elected president of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and as such was invited by the viceroy of Egypt to attend the opening of the Suez Canal. Among the Kildalton Papers there is another diary covering this momentous event.

Ardimersay Cottage proved difficult to keep weather-proof, although John replaced the thatch with slates. He, therefore, built the present Kildalton House in 1870, to which he brought his second wife, Lucy, daughter of George Martin of Auchendennan (now the Loch Lomond Youth Hostel). Although very much younger than he, she supported him in all his public activities and was the mother of his three children.

In Islay, he continued to improve the estate, building over twenty farm houses and steadings, designed on the square plan and constructed for the most part of dressed stone, with water laid on and sanitation. He completed the high road, Charles Morrison doing the shorter length on his ground, and built the low road across the eight-mile stretch of Laggan Moss to connect Port Ellen directly with Bowmore; floating it on birch faggots over the deep peat, and draining lochs where necessary. He encouraged good husbandry and also the cod fishing, which had become the mainstay of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss. As a Free Churchman, he had built the Free Church





Kildalton House, with fallow deer on the round lawn, 1884.  
The house was built on the ground above Ardimersey Cottage

and manse in Port Ellen in 1848 and now, ironically, he found himself sole heritor of Kildalton parish and required to build a new manse for the Established Church in 1861. He also improved the quay accommodation at Port Ellen.

In the last decades of the century, farming reached its zenith in Islay. The quality of the dairy herds of Ayrshire cows was high and many farms had lofts for several hundred cheeses of the Dunlop type, which fetched high prices on the London market. Sheep and beef cattle were also of a high standard and the farms were well cultivated. Between distilling (until Ardinistle was closed there were five distilleries in the parish) and agriculture, Kildalton was now a thriving district.

During his visit to Canada, John had been much impressed by the convenience of Mr. Allan's steam yacht on Lake Memphremagog and determined to have one for himself. In due course he purchased *The Lancer* and thus equipped he and Lucy were able to visit many places on the west coast of Scotland that were otherwise very difficult of access. As he grew older, he was advised by his doctor to spend the more trying months of the winter in the south of France, where the yacht was also a very great pleasure to him.

The mainland estate of Woodhall, belonging to the Shawfield Campbells, was sold in 1859 and the contents were to be auctioned in Edinburgh. In his capacity as trustee, John went down to the house to supervise the removal, and on his arrival, found that the books had already been removed from the bookcases for packing and that the contents of the library drawers, "old papers," had been emptied onto the floor. Looking at them carefully, he discovered that not only were there the old factory papers of the first Daniel Campbell of Shawfield's

merchandising ventures, but also the charter of Islay (1606) and many eighteenth century papers relating to the island. These he collected up, sending the factory papers and personal letters to John Frances Campbell. The former have since been purchased by the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, but the whereabouts of the latter is at present unknown. In the years that followed, having kept all the papers relating to Islay, he sorted and arranged them, enlisting the interest of his friend Cosmo Innes, Professor of Legal History at Edinburgh University. It was obvious that these papers covered a great deal of the history of the island but it was not until after his death that his widow placed them in the hands of Gregory Smith, a noted historian of the day. Mr. Smith went further afield to find related documents, thus compiling a very complete source book, *The Book of Islay*, which was published at Lucy's expense. This valuable book is now almost unobtainable, but a most excellent précis of it has been published recently by Dr. W.D. Lamont of Glasgow University, entitled *The Early History of Islay*.\*

The eighteenth century was considered too near in time to warrant a history so the remaining papers were divided according to their application between the estates of Kildalton and Islay House. They form the basis of a book now in preparation by the present author.

Lucy Ramsay also transcribed and published *The Stent Book of Islay*, being the minutes of the local committee of the laird and tacksmen, which met once a year to discuss and carry out public affairs. This record covers a period of nearly a century and a quarter.

Both husband and wife had been greatly interested in the preservation of the antiquities of the island and,

\* privately printed by Burns and Harris Ltd., Tayside Printing Works, Dundee, Scotland.

among other activities, had reset the magnificent Cross of Kildalton, which was standing at a perilous angle. The operation was supervised by Sir Arthur Mitchell, President, Dr. Joseph Anderson, Secretary of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, and the staff of the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. Later, Lucy encouraged R.C. Graham to produce his beautifully illustrated book *The Carved Stones of Islay*.

Lucy Martin, second wife of John Ramsay of Kildalton.  
Portrait by Harrington Mann





The diary ends with John Ramsay's visit to New York where he saw his cousins, the Christies, and called upon his business associates in that city. The American Civil War had adversely affected his whisky sales. These were now recovering but, in any case, he was no longer entirely dependent on the proceeds of the distillery, having expanded his business interests in Glasgow. On his way he visited and photographed Niagara Falls before sailing once more for Islay.

Almost sixty years after he had taken up his work at Port Ellen Distillery - years of incessant work in many fields - John Ramsay died peacefully in his library chair at Kildalton, on January 24, 1892, at the age of seventy-seven. He was, as Professor Blackie wrote of him "a man of large intelligence and practical good sense," with a deep love of Scotland and his countrymen, held in respect and affection by his fellow citizens of Glasgow, his political colleagues of all parties and a very wide circle of friends. Linlithgow had conferred her freedom upon him; his native city of Stirling elected him a Hammerman; the City of Glasgow made a presentation of gold plate in recognition of his services to her, and in 1882, he was appointed Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant of Argyll. All through Huronia and the townships northeast of Lake Simcoe it is possible to see fine farms, with the delightful houses which succeeded the log cabins, still occupied by descendants of the men and women with whom John Ramsay talked during his visit. Many of the younger generations have spread across the length and breadth of North America and the prosperity and happiness they have created for themselves is the finest memorial John Ramsay could have wished.



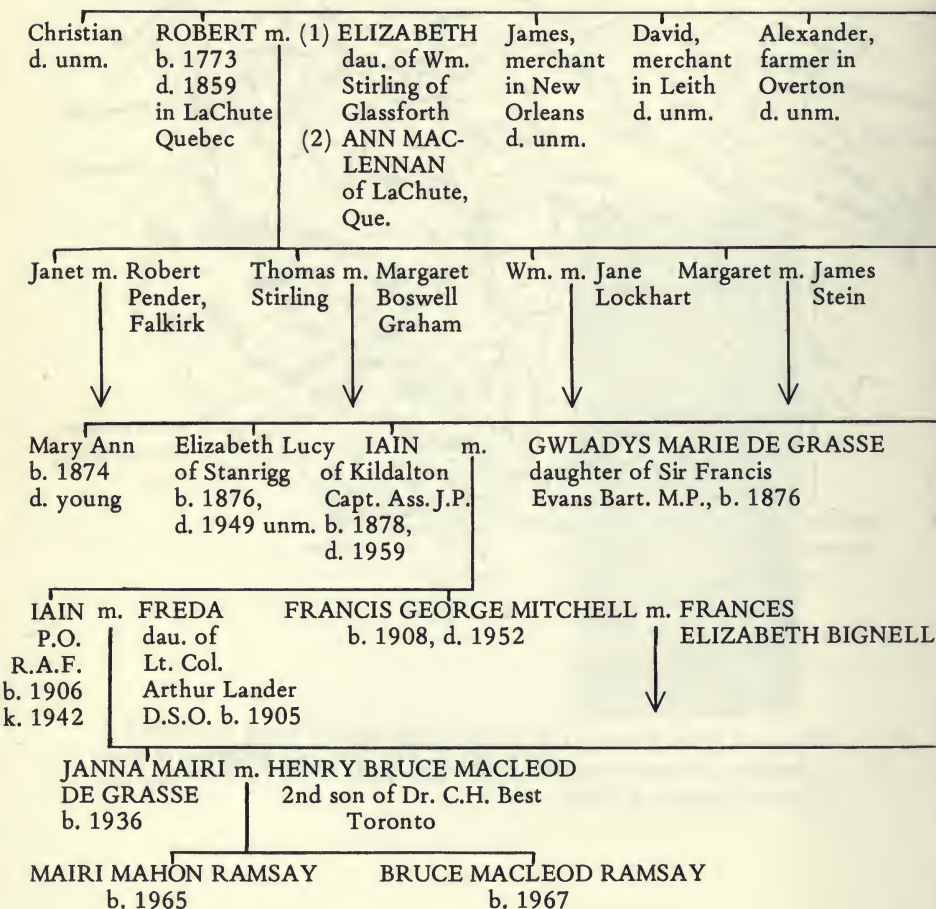


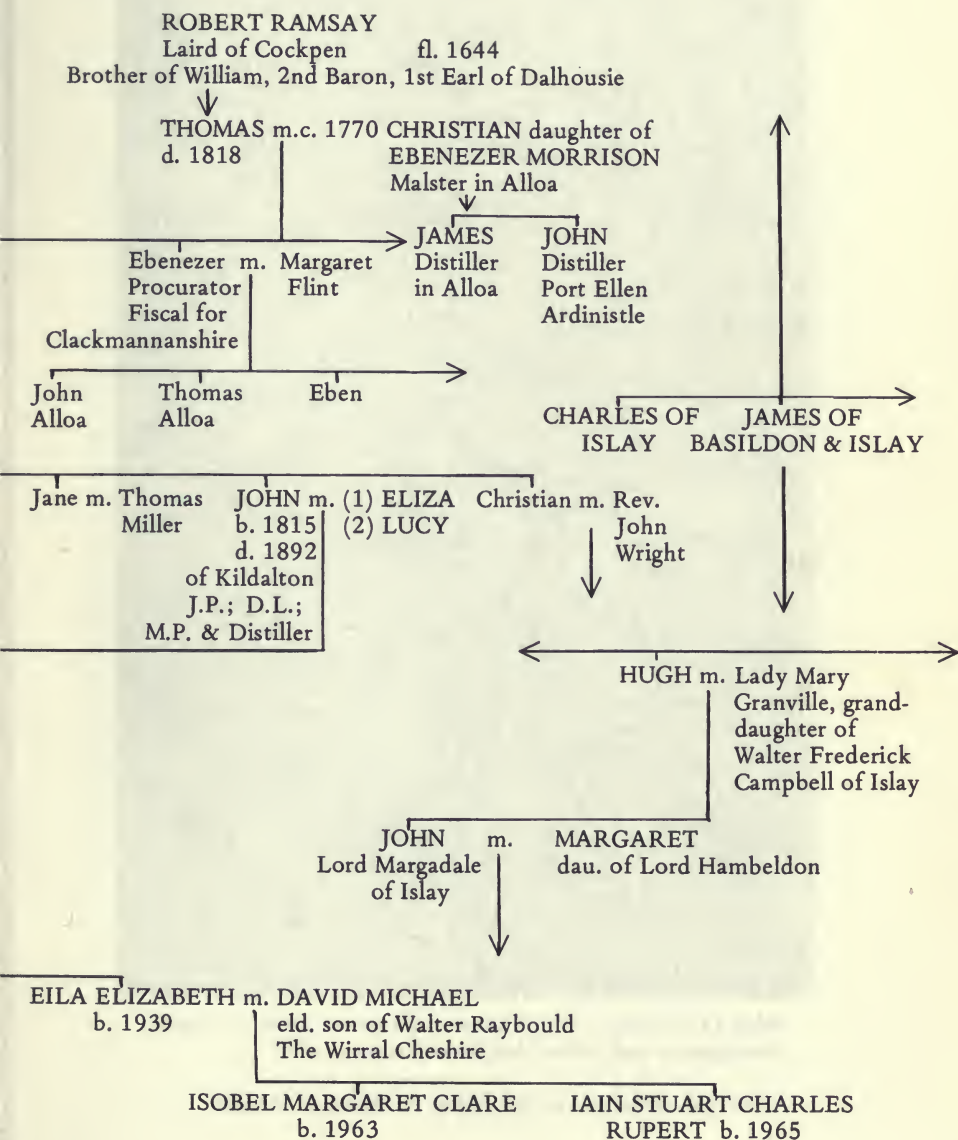
A Crusie. A seal oil lamp with rush wick used in cottages until the end of the 19th century

## THE ATLANTIC OCEAN



Map of Islay showing the quarterlands (farms) of Islay.  
Adapted from the original by MacDougall, 1749, to show  
later villages and roads









Map of Ontario, 1872, showing the areas settled by Islay immigrants and visited by John Ramsay, 1870

*from the collection of the Public Archives of Ontario*



D I A R Y

OF A

TRIP TO AMERICA.

BY

JOHN RAMSAY OF KILDALTON.

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1891.

Notawassay Lake east of Bollingwood about 7 miles  
 2 is largely settled by Delany people  
 Donald Smith sailor from the north  
 M<sup>rs</sup> Dugald McDougall sister of Hugh McDougall  
 Mara Capt<sup>l</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Campbell from Lurich by Bearaton  
 1 John Campbell from Lurich  
 John Campbell employed Lurich  
 Alex Campbell em of late Arch?  
 Bearaton Duncan Calder Esq  
 1 Alex Calder Lurich  
 " Arch<sup>d</sup> Campbell Lurich  
 " Peter McMillan former Lurich  
 " Alex Campbell Lurich  
 " Donald McNeil Lurich head by  
 Robert Capt<sup>l</sup> Sinclair  
 Capt<sup>l</sup> Taylor  
 Thos Esq<sup>r</sup> Cameron by Bearaton  
 1 Sinclair McMillan Turner  
 Brampton Alex McTaggart, care the Lurich Esq  
 Arthur John Kirkland, Esq<sup>r</sup> Hamilton P.O.

Part of a List of Emigrants, with their places of settlement and origin carried by John Ramsay in his wallet. August-September, 1870

140 Bath Street,  
GLASGOW, 3rd May, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR,

Some weeks since I sent you a hurried acknowledgment of a letter which I then received from you, in which you requested that I would let you know the general impression which I had formed regarding the condition of the Lewis people who have settled in Canada, on the occasion of my visit to that country in 1870.

When acknowledging your letter I regretted that I had not time to send you a satisfactory reply, and as I have been on the Continent since, and constantly moving about, I am sorry to say I have overlooked your request, and delayed my answer to your inquiry much longer than I intended. I trust you will kindly excuse this apparent neglect.

From some inquiries which I had made previous to my departure for Canada, I learned that the Lewis emigrants were chiefly settled in the eastern townships, while the great body of those who have gone from Islay and other parts of Argyllshire are located in the Province of Ontario, Canada West. Any one acquainted with the West Highlands must be aware that annually, for many years past, a number of persons have emigrated to the Colonies. Some years since the number who went from my own estate was very considerable. In one year, I think, the number from Islay must have been nearly 400.

These removals were entirely voluntary, the impelling or inducing cause in the majority of cases with tenants of land having been that their children could not get farms in their neighbourhood, and they preferred to accompany their families rather than to separate. In many of these cases, however, they had not sufficient means to pay for the passage of the whole family and their relations, and as they wished to remove as a body, I agreed to aid many of them, and in this way have expended a considerable sum. No one, however, can have witnessed the distress which Highland emigrants manifest when they are leaving their homes without being led to consider whether the advantage they derive from emigration is really worth the pain of removal from the land and scenes they love so well.

My own sympathy with their sorrow on such occasions had led me to resolve that I would visit Canada for the purpose of seeing, in their adopted home, as many as I could of those who had for long been my own neighbours in Islay, and that I would, at the same time, take the opportunity of seeing those who had gone from other parts of the Highlands with which I am acquainted.

In my opinion, (if remunerative employment could be had for our population,) their removal is a loss to this country: but irrespective of any question regarding the propriety or impropriety of promoting emigration, my desire was to have an opportunity of judging on the spot whether the removal is really an advantage to the emigrants themselves. With this sole object I started for Quebec in the end of July, 1870.

The first thing which pressed much on my mind after I landed was the great speed, ease, and comfort with which the voyage is now accomplished. I left my own house in Islay on Friday afternoon, and started from Lough



Foyle the same evening as a passenger on board the S.S. "Scandinavian," which vessel had about 700 steerage passengers and above 100 cabin, besides a general cargo of goods of all kinds for the American market. On the afternoon of Thursday of the following week we passed the lighthouse in the Straits of Belle Isle, so that I was not more than six days (rather less) between leaving Islay and reaching the American shore. We landed at Quebec on Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, and the great majority of the passengers went on to Montreal the same day by train on the Grand Trunk Railway. I remained at Quebec for some days. I went on to Montreal during the week, and left on the Saturday on my way to Lennoxville, from which place I started for Stornoway, a distance of 52 miles, rather a tedious journey, as the roads are not good, the rumbling of the waggon over the corduroy of the marshy parts, or the stones on the hilly parts of the way, making it rather disagreeable. The journey occupied more than 12 hours, including a stoppage to dine and to feed the horse at Bury. I stopped also for a few minutes at Lingwick, a small town between Bury and Winslow, to call for the Free Church minister, who is resident there, and Mr. Ross, a native of Ross-shire, who is settled as a storekeeper, and represents the County of Compton in the Assembly for the Province of Quebec. From Mr. Ross, and several settlers with whom I met and conversed on the way, I was pleased to learn that the Lewis emigrants on the whole were getting on very well, and were satisfied they had benefited much by coming to this country.

It is about 14 miles from the Post Office, Stornoway, to the Post Office at Lake Magentic, the road for the greater part of the way passing through the unbroken primitive forest, there being few clearances by the way. From the greatest height to which one can attain, far as

the eye can reach, nothing was visible but the dense dark green foliage of the forest trees (or "bush," as it is called by the Canadians). I walked from the small roadside inn and Post Office kept by your correspondent, John M'Donald (Boston), to the residence of Captain Ramage, on the banks of the lake. A small space has been cleared, and is now under cultivation around this dwelling; and I found a young man working in the garden (Donald M'Lean) who had but recently arrived in the country from Grimsay, North Uist. He said that he liked the place, and expected that the other members of his family might get on well. He was engaged for a year to work with Captain Ramage for £25 currency in cash and his board. He had come from Glasgow as a passenger on board the S.S. "Hibernian." The settlers near Lake Magentic are placed at considerable disadvantage owing to their distance from the markets where their produce is sold, and from which they receive such articles as they require. As an illustration of this, I was told in conversation with one of them that a bag of salt, 2 cwts., which can be bought at Lennoxville for a dollar, costs  $2\frac{1}{2}$  dollars at Lake Magentic, so that the carriage more than doubles the price. Nearly all the settlers in this neighbourhood for many miles have come from Lewis or Uist. I met with none from other parts, and all of them with whom I conversed gave me the same favourable report of the country; and though some of the older men I met expressed their preference for their native land, they all admitted, after some conversation, that they had been in better circumstances shortly after their arrival than they had been at home. I was in some of the houses occupied by settlers. The greater number in this district, or I may say all, are formed of logs rudely dressed and notched together at the four corners, warm enough, but not so susceptible of sub-division nor so neat-looking as the frame house which the settler usually constructs for

himself as soon as the log house is so decayed as to render it expedient to erect a new dwelling.

Those who have been long in the district have usually frame houses of two storeys, neatly constructed, tastefully painted, and very comfortable.

On the roadside, between Lingwick and Winslow, I saw one belonging to a farmer named M'Auslan from Lewis, very neat, and I feel assured superior in comfort as well as appearance to the dwelling-house of the best of the Lewis farmers. M'Auslan had, however, been in Canada for 30 years, and the state of his land, as well as the aspect of his dwelling, gave satisfactory evidence that the occupier was in good circumstances. I left the waggon in which I travelled and went into the fields for the purpose of conversing with two young men who were at work cutting a drain in a grass field near the house. They were sons of M'Auslan's, and knew nothing of the condition of those still resident in Lewis, except that from the poverty of the emigrants who had arrived in the district within their knowledge, they concluded that the people must be very badly off. The young men spoke very cheerfully of their circumstances, and told me that their father, although he sometimes expressed a wish to see his early home again, was fully satisfied that he could never have thriven so well had he remained at home. They had a nice-looking dwelling-house, as I have said, a short distance from the public road, and a well kept orchard, fully stocked with fruit trees, occupied near an acre close to the house. About half their land was cleared and under crop or grass, and they had it well stocked with horses and cattle. Many of the young men leave this district in winter and go into the United States, where they readily find employment, and can earn high wages, which they save and return to their own location when the crops require their attention.



When I reached Lingwick I accepted Mr. Ross' invitation to rest at his house for the night. He and his wife were very kind.

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GREENOCK, 28TH JULY, 1870.—On board the steamer "Islay." Left at seven o'clock evening, the sea being very calm, and the evening very lovely. We had a fine passage to Port-Ellen, where we arrived about ten minutes past two on the following morning; and I left the vessel shortly after she was moored, and, in company with Scott, drove direct to The Cottage, where I got to bed before four o'clock and rested till eight; and, having taken a turn about the doors after breakfast, returned to Port-Ellen to be in readiness to leave at twelve noon for Lough Foyle, where I had arranged that I should join the S.S. "Scandinavian," on board of which ship I had engaged my passage to Quebec. The weather was most favourable, the North Channel having been as calm as a mill pond; and, as the "Islay" was ready, and started a few minutes before twelve noon, we reached Innishowen Lighthouse by three, and in a half-hour later were alongside the "Scandinavian," which we found at anchor off Moville. Shortly after the "Islay" left, I dined on board the "Scandinavian," the captain having previously pointed out my room and the place at table which I should occupy during the voyage. After getting under way, we passed abreast of Innishowen Lighthouse at seven o'clock the same lovely evening, and steamed along the shores of Donegal until the coast near Lough Swilly begins to tend to the south, where the increased distance and the shades of evening caused us to lose sight of land, shortly after which I proceeded to my room to spend my first night



on board ship on the outer Atlantic. The ship's log on the voyage was as follows:—

		Latitude.	Longitude.	Distance Run. Miles.	
Friday,	29th July, Off Innishowen	...	...	190	
Saturday,	30th „	55° 53'	13°	212	402
Sunday,	31st „	56°	21° 31'	282	684
Monday,	1st August,	55° 40'	30° 13'	293	977
Tuesday,	2nd „	55°	39°	300	1,277
Wednesday,	3rd „	53° 41'	47° 3'	290	1,567
Thursday,	4th „	52° 8'	54° 23'	270	1,837
Friday,	5th „	49° 27'	61°	300	2,137
Saturday,	6th „	48° 58'	67° 40'	300	2,437
Sunday,	7th „	...	...	210	2,647

SATURDAY, 30TH JULY, 1870.—There is little which can either interest or instruct in the observations which one can make at sea, so far as my experience enables me to judge. How it may be with those who really enjoy life on board ship for its own sake I cannot say; but, as all pleasing associations are, in my mind, connected with home and those whom I esteem, a voyage at sea, whether enduring for days or hours, is at best but a necessary evil, a monotonous part of time, which must be got over as we best can, in order to surmount and remove the obstacles which space and distance place between us and our desire to obtain some knowledge and experience of countries and climes other than our native land. Such, certainly, were my feelings when I got out of my berth this morning, and found that we had now lost sight of the nearest of our Western coast, and were steaming along on a calm, though slightly undulating ocean, without any object in view except an occasional glimpse of a ship in the distance, making way either to or from the land. The day continued dull, with but little wind, but the

swell was not such as to make me feel uncomfortable; and I was pleased, when evening arrived, to find that I had got over my first day and night with so little to cause suffering or discomfort, and felt thankful for so much.

SUNDAY, 31ST JULY, 1870.—The weather continues calm, comparatively; but the swell is ahead, and greater than it has yet been—a chopping, short swell, which made many on board take to their berths; and the greater number of the ladies never left them. Any breeze we had was from the north-east, and enabled us to carry sail; but the table was thinned when we sat down to meals, many who were not sick preferring to avoid the saloon, and take what they could in their rooms. We breakfast on board at half-past eight; luncheon at noon; dine at four; tea at seven; and get supper at half-past nine in the evening. The food supplied is sufficiently varied; but the bread, on which I depend so much for my daily fare, is neither good in quality nor palatable, and the biscuits tough and disagreeable. It may be that this defect in the quality of the stuff cannot be easily remedied, but I think an attempt ought to be made to have it of better quality; and surely the biscuits for the cabin might be toasted dry and made brittle, instead of being damp and tough. At half-past ten this forenoon we had worship in the chief cabin, the purser reading portions of the English Church Prayer Book, and the Lessons for the day. The attendance was not very numerous; but the swell may have deterred many from joining the service who would otherwise have been present. It was pleasing to observe the hearty way in which the company united in singing the hymns which were selected for opening and closing our meeting, the chief engineer acting as our precentor, and doing the

duty very well indeed. I find that the engineer, the captain, and all in charge on board are Scotchmen; and, as usual, are not inclined to think less of themselves or of their fitness for their duties than those of any other nation. Everything I have seen inspires me with confidence in them as trustworthy, respectable men, sensible of the vast responsibility which such a charge imposes on them, involving, as it does, the safety of so many lives, as we have upwards of 700 human beings on board—the cabin being full, and the steerage nearly so with the humbler class of emigrants, besides the officers and crew.

MONDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1870.—The weather still continued moderate, but we had more wind, and it blew from a quarter which enabled us to carry canvas—the south-west; our course being north-west and by west, or rather N. 53° W. The swell this day was such as to make me feel rather uncomfortable, and put my stomach out of sorts; but I contrived to make my appearance at breakfast and dinner, though I ate sparingly, and had little relish for food, resting most of the day on the sofa in my room. So far as my quarters are concerned, I have every comfort I could desire, and much more than I expected—the captain's room, which I occupy, having been assigned for my own use. It is an apartment about ten feet square, with door and windows opening on to the main or upper deck; having the berth on one side, placed fore and aft, and a sofa across the ship on one side, while a table, heating apparatus, and drawers and presses for my clothes, occupy the other side. It is very comfortable.

TUESDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1870.—The wind during the night shifted from south-south-west to the north; and, as it rained and blew very hard, none of the passengers



could be on deck. I contrived to appear at breakfast with some difficulty; but my stay was brief at table, and I returned to my room, "no very com—fortable ava," as Mr. Brown would have said, had he seen or been with me. The discomfort, however, was all I suffered, as I did not get so bad as to vomit—though possibly, if I had, I might have got sooner relieved. As it was, I made no attempt to revisit the saloon during that day, as the gale rather increased in severity as the day advanced, and my windows had to be closed and the door protected against the ingress of the water which was thrown on deck; as the waves rose high, pouring large sheets of water on deck, which rose over my room, and the spray was passing high over and above the ship's funnel. This was the only day when the state of the weather approached to a storm; but, whether owing to the great length of the vessel and size I know not, but I have often been much more tossed about on the passage from Islay to Glasgow.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1870.—The weather this morning, happily, was less stormy, and I ventured to take some breakfast in my room. It got better as the day advanced; and, as the swell abated, I was able, though not very well, to appear at dinner and supper; and the night was so favourable that the swell gave me no discomfort, though the fog which came on caused some anxiety, as I understood we were then getting near the region in which icebergs and floating masses of ice are met with; and these appear to be one of the chief, if not the chief, risk of the navigation between Great Britain and the St. Lawrence ports. My seclusion, owing to the state of the weather and the heavy sea, enabled me during these days to read over Lyell's *Visits to America*; and the four volumes are all the literary food I have had on the voyage, except Fraser's *Report on the Schools of the United States*



*and Canada*, the merits of which I hope to test by personal inquiries if I have time and opportunity. I shall try.

THURSDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1870.—During the past night the only discomfort was caused by the loud screech of the fog whistle, which was frequently sounded as we passed along, the engines being frequently moved very slow, and this was continued during most of the day, those in charge on board being very anxious, as we were now approaching the land, and it was desirable that we should get sight of the shore before dark, as they had got no sight of the sun since we left Derry to enable them to determine our latitude exactly by meridian observation; the sea, however, was calm, and enabled myself and other landsmen to enjoy ourselves with renewed freedom, either on deck or at table, the attendance at which appears to depend very much on the state of the ocean; our progress was not much retarded, however, though we continued to require to run slow at intervals during the day when the fog became so dense as to render this needful. About three in the afternoon, my attention was directed by a fellow-passenger to the first iceberg which had been visible from our ship. The low temperature, which had fallen for two days past, as low as 40, had made the officers of the ship aware that we were near ice, and I was much interested in having an opportunity of seeing the huge mass in the distance, some miles south from our course. In form it had a conical appearance, very much resembling Knock Hill or Ailsa Craig, but white as snow itself, and glistening through the fog. We soon, however, lost sight of it as we steamed along, but had not proceeded far when we saw several others on both sides all round the horizon; indeed they, and lesser masses of ice floating past, were seen, as we proceeded on our course. The afternoon happily got rather clearer, and by four o'clock

the land became visible, and shortly after we passed the lighthouse on the south point of Belle Isle; when at dinner, between four and five, Captain Ballantyne came and told me that we were passing close to an iceberg, and I went on deck to see it. It appeared to me that it is not easy to exaggerate the risk which vessels incur from ice on this passage; during the afternoon and evening we must have seen 40 or 50 of these moving mountains of ice, on which neither winds nor waves produce any impression, other than the wear at the sea margin, where the wash of the sea cuts into the mass of ice and leaves the superincumbent mass suspended in the air, until so much below is melted away as to cause the whole berg to turn over, the top getting below, and the under part coming above, the surface of the ocean. A vessel might as well strike against a rocky cliff on the shore as one of these bergs, the dimensions of which are so vast that no ship could survive collision, as the sides are frequently very precipitous, and the edges sharply worn, so sharp that I can conceive that a vessel would be cut much the same as if it were to strike a sharp mass of hardened steel. After dinner I went on to the bridge, and on our course we passed within 300 or 400 yards of a very large berg, in which I could plainly perceive some stones fixed quite near the summit, rendering it probable that what I saw as the top had previously been the under part of the mass, and had so got the stones embedded when in contact with the land; and with the glass I could distinctly perceive that one part was discoloured, or rather covered, with small stones or gravel; in form it had a close resemblance to the east end of Texa Island, the cliff being quite as high, and the mass as great as if the eastern end of the island had floated into the sea. I could also observe that the magnitude of the part under water was much greater than the part above, as one or two clumps, one of them about the size and height

of Tarskeir, though apparently separated from the high cliff by the sea, was evidently connected under the surface, as the shallow water, over the space between, clearly revealed the bright mass of pure ice which connected the clumps with the greater mass, and united the whole into one vast ice rock. Many were the guesses made by the passengers as to the height and magnitude; but the nature of the atmosphere at the time had a tendency to make every object in the distance loom larger than the reality, and hence we had conjectures of an altitude of 500 or 600 feet for icebergs at a distance which gradually became less as we got nearer to them, and reduced our estimate of the height to 150 or 200 feet at most. My own impression regarding the one which we approached so closely, was, that it was not more than 120 feet above water at the highest point, and that it was 400 to 500 yards in length. As the evening advanced I was glad to be assured by the officers that we had got beyond the course in which we should meet with ice, either floating or bergs. I was told that one of the ships of this line was lost, and a great number of her passengers, by striking in a heavy sea on a piece of floating ice, so small that it was scarcely visible above the surface of the sea, though the shock was so little felt that many of the passengers on board at the time were not conscious that any such accident had occurred; but it appears that when the ship had once struck the mass, the swell continued to make her bump on it, and it cut her so quickly, in so many parts, that she went down in a few minutes. We saw some small boats fishing off the coast of Labrador, which is rocky and very bare, there being little vegetation, except a low stunted brushwood in some of the valleys, where there are some fishing stations, inhabited by the Esquimaux, and to which, at this season, boats resort from Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, as well as from



Canada. The fishing may be good, but it is truly an ungenial climate, and the poor Esquimaux and French-Canadians need not be envied its occupation.

FRIDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 1870.—This morning we were passing along the gulf, troubled with the fog somewhat, and the decks kept wet with mist and rain, but the sea was smooth, and the ship very agreeable for those who were not good sailors; and happily about mid-day the mist cleared off, and we saw the Island of Anticosti on the north, and gradually as the evening came on the sky got brighter, and the distance clearer, so that the land could be seen, far off the south and west; the captain having pointed out to me the land at Gaspé, when it was upwards of 50 miles distant, and Mr. McLean directed my attention to the position of Miramachi, far off to the south-west. I had quite recovered from any derangement which the stormy sea had produced, and was able to enjoy my dinner with a glass of wine, and a salt herring and potatoes for my supper; there was, however, little to note during our progress, as the land was very distant, and we could see nothing on the shore. Anticosti, indeed, can scarcely be said to be inhabited, though there are a few families on the island; but it is covered with brushwood so dense, that Captain Barclay, who acts as shore manager for Messrs. Allan, and had been on the island attending to one of their ships, which was wrecked on the shore, mentioned that he had walked on the top of the bushes into the interior for some distance, but found that there was nothing else to be seen, and, therefore, returned to his quarters on the shore. It appears that some Scotchman has recently bought the whole island for five cents per acre, believing that it may yet be made of value for salmon fishing, and other sport, as there are a great many bears and other animals which may be



valuable for their skins. Just before bed we sighted the lighthouse on the island—a flash light—which serves to guide passing ships in the gulf.

SATURDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1870.—This morning was bright and fine, and quite redeemed the promise which the evening sky had given of fine weather for the day; we were not far from the land on the southern bank of the St. Lawrence, and early in the forenoon were so near that we could easily see the houses of the small farmers on the shore as we passed along—they were not numerous—early in the day, but increased in number as we advanced to the west, while the slope of the land towards the sea gradually became less steep, and the aspect of the coast was very pleasing, the sub-divisions being very small, and reminded me of the slope near Port-Charlotte, on the shores of Lochindaal, the holdings of the French-Canadians looking much like the lots of the Port-Charlotte villagers; the part of the shore which I saw first reminded me of the hills between Dunoon and Toward, the white-washed houses of the "*habitans*" giving the appearance, and taking the place of the villas on the Clyde. At breakfast, the captain informed me that we should probably be able to get letters sent ashore in the afternoon, at Father Point, where the St. Lawrence pilot comes on board, and that by doing so the letters would go to Britain by the steamer which had left Quebec in the morning, and so would reach friends at home within little more than a fortnight from the time I had left home. This intimation led me to employ my time in writing to several of those I had left behind, who would care to hear of my safe arrival in Canadian waters, and of my progress so far on my journey; and about three in the afternoon we reached Father Point, took on board a pilot, and sent ashore our mail bag with despatches from all on

board who chose to take advantage of this opportunity of communicating with their friends—we also landed one or two passengers who resided in this district of the country. The evening was very fine, though a smoky haze prevented us from seeing the shore distinctly, on the north, indeed, it is only visible when the weather is clear, owing to the width of the river at this point; but as we proceeded westward the coast became distinctly visible on both sides, and about seven or eight we passed the “Prussian” steamer on her way to Derry, with passengers and mails, and which would receive our mail bag on her way eastward, at Father Point. The mouth of the River Saguenay was pointed out on the north, before dark, where it unites with the St. Lawrence; and we passed several small towns on the south coast, the bright tin-covered spires of the numerous churches, and white-washed or painted dwellings of the residents on the coast, giving a bright cheerful aspect to the shore, in the light of the setting sun. Soon after dark I went to bed, and about three or four in the morning the engines came to a final stop as we touched at the landing-place opposite Quebec. I was asked to get up for breakfast before six, but I lay still till near seven, and then took but little, and made ready for the removal of my baggage; it turned out, however, that the first steamer to cross the ferry had left before I was ready, and it was not till half-past ten that I got my luggage past the minute examination of the custom’s officers on the quay, and was fairly on my way across the river for Quebec, which I reached in safety, and proceeded direct to the St. Louis Hotel, where, after dressing, I had lunch, and then arranged to visit the cemetery with Mr. Maberly, who had been a passenger on board the “Scandinavian,” having come out to join his regiment, “The Rifles,” at Montreal. The day was very hot, but I enjoyed the

exercise after a week's confinement to the ship, and if the atmosphere had been clear we should have had a fine view of the country as we went along; the distance is more than two miles, and the walk, and our saunter about the Heights of Abraham, and in the cemetery itself, occupied all the afternoon, so that we got back to Quebec just in time to wash and sit down for dinner at half-past six. The company at dinner consisted of Mr. Maberly, Mr. Rogers, Colonel Ready, all three connected with the army; Mr. R. Buchanan, from the Cape of Good Hope, and Mr. Knot, a young man who had come out for a situation in one of the banks in Quebec; and Mr. Prestwick of the Commissariat was invited by one of the party to join us, and we formed a pleasant party, as all the others, except Mr. Prestwick, had been fellow-passengers on the voyage, and had become more or less acquainted on the way. Mr. Buchanan is a cousin of Mr. Thomas Buchanan, of Buchanan, Wilson & Co., who holds Ardbeg Distillery, and I had, in consequence of his telling me this, and that he was a Glasgow man, become more intimate with him than with the others. Mr. John Fleming of Glasgow, whom I had recently seen in London, is married to a sister of Mr. Buchanan's, and he himself is married to a sister of the wife of Colonel Ross, who also was on board the "Scandinavian," and had induced Buchanan to make the voyage, in the hope, that in New York, and also in Canada, he might form some business connections for the sale of fine wool from the Cape, for the purpose of being manufactured in America. At dinner it was agreed that we should make an excursion to see the Falls of Montmorenci on the following day, and I was induced, though with much reluctance, to make one of a party to visit the Saguenay river on Tuesday; Captain Ballantyne of the "Scandinavian" having urged me to do this for the purpose of seeing the fine scenery, which he described



as surpassing anything of the kind on the American continent.

MONDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1870.—This day again was hot, but being rather cloudy it was more pleasant to move about, and having, after breakfast, called to deliver some letters of introduction which I had received from Mr. A. Arthur to his friends in Quebec, but both of whom were at the seaside, I then joined my friends, and about noon, Buchanan and I, with other two, started for the Falls of Montmorenci in a carriage, which carried us there in little more than an hour. I had never previously seen the fall of so great a volume of water over such a high cliff, and this sight I truly regarded as well worthy of the time it took. The rocky precipice, over which the water descends in a mass of foam, is said to be 250 feet high, and the effect produced as one sees it from the perches, which have been made on both sides of the stream, is very imposing; we had all a desire to see it from below, but the distance which one requires to walk is considerable, and as the day was hot, we abandoned this thought, and set off, after getting luncheon in the little inn on the eastern side, for the so-called “natural steps,” being the exposed stratification of the laminated limestone rock through which the river has cut for itself a narrow channel for a great distance above the bridge of Montmorenci. We amused ourselves throwing pieces of wood into the stream, and watching the way in which they were tossed about by the rushing mass of water, as it coursed swiftly through the narrow girt below the overhanging rocks on which we stood or ran. We got back to Quebec in good time for dinner, and our wanderings made us willing to retire early to bed.

TUESDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1870. — The steamer for



Saguenay leaves Montreal ostensibly at 8 a.m.; but extreme punctuality it seems is by no means a characteristic of travelling in this region, whether by steamer or rail, and the boat left when ready, and we proceeded down the St. Lawrence, sighting again the Falls of Montmorenci, as we approached the western point of the Island of Orleans, which here divides the river into two branches—one on the north being too shallow for navigation at low water, and the other on the south being open at all times for the largest ships; we coasted along this island, the shore studded with houses and surrounding orchards, which are spoken as excelling in the quality of the plums, which are sent at the season, to the market of Quebec, in large quantities for sale. After passing Orleans the vessel was steered to the north side of the river, which we went along at a short distance from the shore, till we reached the landing-place at Murray Bay, a favourite resort for visitors from the towns and inland districts. There is little to be seen on the northern side, as it is still covered by the unbroken primeval forest, and presents to the view merely an undulating surface of trees and woods, from the margin of the river, far as the eye can reach upward and inland. After leaving Murray Bay, the vessel crosses to the opposite shore, and touches at River du Loup, which is situated some miles further east, and thence crosses again to Ta du Sae, at the entrance to the river Saguenay, where we arrived between seven and eight in the evening. We had remained for an hour at River du Loup, and had a walk for a mile along the road which leads to the town; and on our arrival at Ta du Sae we were informed that the vessel would remain there till probably two o'clock next morning, so that we might land and stroll about before going to bed on board. We occupied our time on shore in walking up to the hotel, and sitting for a time there,

seeing some Americans play, what is here the favourite game, of skittles, a good under-cover amusement for a rainy day. After our return to the steamer, we listened to some ladies on board singing and playing the piano as an accompaniment; this instrument being apparently an essential part of the correct furnishing for one of these vessels. We went early to bed, and I got up early after daybreak in the hope of seeing from our cabin some of the grand scenery which I had heard so much lauded as a characteristic of the banks of the Saguenay; but, except that they were clothed with the never-ending forest, they differ nothing in general aspect from the hills elsewhere: the hills forming the banks of the Saguenay, indeed, present little to interest, except at two noted points, where a perpendicular cliff of bare rock rises from the water to a height of perhaps 600 or 700 feet; and as the steamer, in passing, passes so close, that you may toss a penny piece on the shore, they seem to overhang, and produce a most imposing effect. These cliffs are said to be 1,800 feet high, but this I cannot accept, as I think the altitude of the summit cannot exceed 700 feet, so far as the impression on my mind enabled me to judge; but I was sadly disappointed, and felt annoyed that I had wasted three, or rather four days on such an unsatisfactory trip, for which I have blamed myself very much ever since. When we reached Ha Ha Bay, we remained some hours, when I landed and went into the country a walk of two or three miles alone, as my friends had set off for a drive around the bay, while I preferred to pass to the interior, and to see the lands occupied by the French, who are the only settlers in that district. I saw little to gratify a taste for good farming; but the people themselves appear contented and cheery, much given to amusement and mirth-making in any form they can. Our return to Quebec was by the same course as we came, and I was

glad when I landed on the morning of Thursday, and was ready to start for Montreal.

THURSDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1870.—The steamer from Quebec for Montreal leaves at four o'clock, afternoon, so I dined early at the St. Louis and made my way to the steamer, having previously secured my berth, and transferred my baggage to the Montreal boat. The heat, and my want of rest for the two previous nights, caused me to rest satisfied with merely visiting the citadel and taking mine ease in the inn during the few hours I was on shore, as I returned to the steamer, which starts for Montreal at four o'clock. The haze on the river prevented me from seeing the shore distinctly, but, so far as I could judge, it exactly resembles the banks to the east of Montreal, except that it is settled on both sides, and small towns or villages are located at various points, where the steamers touch on their way to and from Montreal and Quebec. These vessels are handsomely fitted up, and are constructed on a very different principle from any engaged in our coasting trade at home, for which, in my opinion, the American mode of construction would not be suitable, as I should not like to be off the Mull of Cantyre in one of these vessels during a stormy winter night, though the master of one of them told me, in conversation, that they would stand any sea; and, as an evidence of the correctness of his opinion, he mentioned that similar vessels ply between the ports on the Atlantic coast of the United States, where the storms must be as severe and the sea as high as on the British coast; but I have been told by others that this is not correct, as any such vessel takes refuge in the nearest haven whenever there comes the appearance of a storm. We arrived at Montreal early, and I set out on arrival for the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel, where I dressed and breakfasted; but, before I had finished,

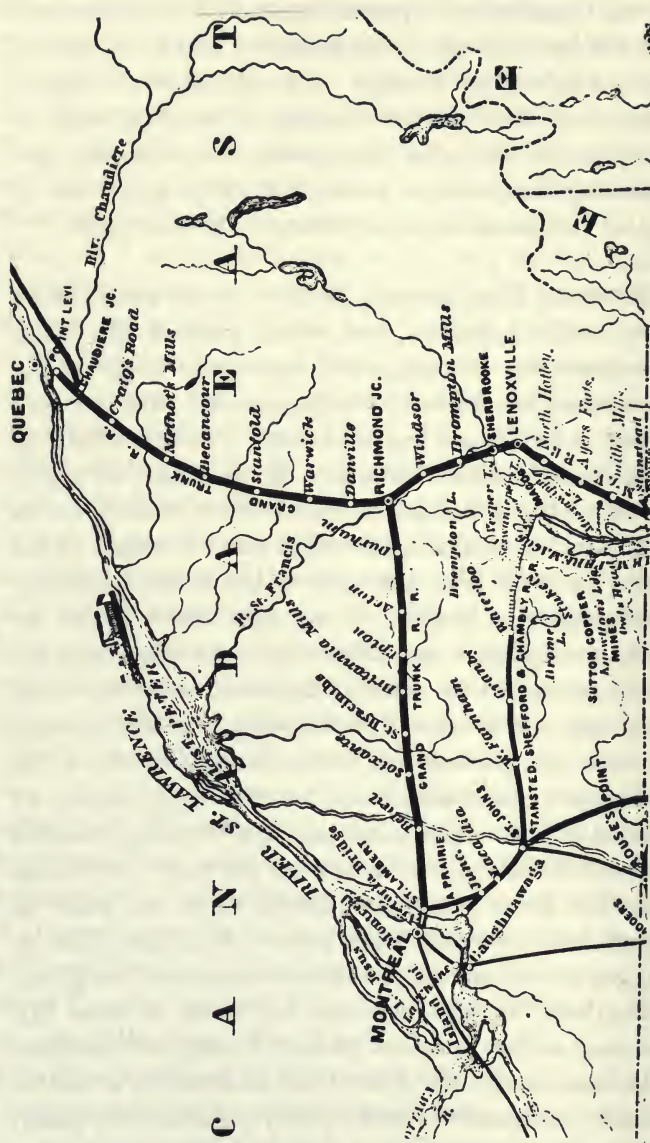


Mr. H. Allan called to invite me to come and take up quarters at his city residence, and to accompany him next day to his country seat on Lake Memphremagog. Mr. George Stephens, Montreal, also called to invite me to dine with him that day; so I accepted Mr. Stephen's invitation to dinner, and agreed to go with Mr. Allan on Saturday, as I learned, after some conversation, that by doing so I would be so far on my way to the eastern townships where so many of the people of Lewis Highlanders are settled. There was a small pleasant party at Mr. Stephen's; and I was agreeably surprised when the gentleman sitting next to me said, "You are well acquainted with my best friend, John Ridley," and he informed me that he is a brother of Sir Arthur Monk, whom I had met at Walwick, and his sister is married to Captain Orde, the son of Sir John. This incident made me feel at home, and he afterwards told me that he had sold out his commission in the army for the purpose of beginning business in Montreal—in making iron plates, nails, and other articles of iron—in which I was glad to learn subsequently that he is doing well. Mr. Monk wished me to dine with him the following day, but this was not in my power, as I had previously engaged to accompany Mr. Allan to Lake Memphremagog. After breakfast I went off, accompanied by Mr. Allan, to deliver some letters of introduction, and, in particular, to see Mr. W. Chapman, and to deliver the letter which Mr. Morrison had sent for him. I had some conversation with Mr. C. about Canada; but he is little acquainted with the circumstances of the class whom I had come to see, as he acts as Local Commissioner in Montreal for the Trust and Loan Company, and the poor islanders who have come to Canada are not favourably regarded as applicants for loans. At Messrs. Buchanan, Leckie & Co.'s I met Mr. Hennesy, jun., from Cognac, and received for my use in travelling fifty



dollars in Canadian money, so as to save the few sovereigns that I still have for use on my return to Britain, if spared to make a safe return voyage. I wandered about during the day, and dined in the evening at Mr. Stephen's, as already mentioned. The day passing away quickly, and the walking and previous want of sleep, prepared me to enjoy my bed when I got to it about twelve at night.

SATURDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1870.—I wrote some letters for home after breakfast, and, when finished, Mr. Allan called about one o'clock, and I was ready to go to the rail, on which we started at half-past one. On our way we dined at Richmond, and did not reach Newport Station, in the United States (Vermont), till near nine at night, where Mr. Allan's nice steam yacht was in waiting at the quay to receive us, and a little after ten we landed at his Cottage, the walk from the quay to the house reminding me very much of landing at my own island home; for though the trees here are taller and more numerous, the difference was not so readily discerned as in the clear light of day, and the site of the building, and the entrance to it from the grounds by the verandah, added to the resemblance in the dining-room. After a light supper, we were soon in bed. Miss Allan and Mrs. Wolesley, the wife of Colonel Wolesley, who is now on his way with troops to the Red River settlement, joined us in the yacht at Newport, with two fine boys, sons of Mr. Allan, Miss A. being, as I understand, his eldest unmarried daughter. Miss A., Mrs. W., and the boys had come to meet Mr. Allan; and a Miss Starus, a young, intelligent Canadian, who had come with Mr. Allan from Montreal on a visit to his country seat, and we made a very pleasant little party. I could not but feel that, with a similar small steam yacht, I could make The Cottage more frequently a resort at the end of a week, as Mr. Allan's residence is more distant



Railway map of area visited by John Ramsay

from Montreal than The Cottage from Glasgow, and the time taken on the journey, which is more than nine hours, would be more than enough to reach The Cottage, *via* Tarbert, if there were an afternoon boat from Glasgow, or even in fine weather by train to Ardrossan, and thence round the Mull. Reflections of this nature led me to resolve that I should enquire what the vessel cost to build and to work, as Mr. A. uses her every week for several months in summer.

SUNDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1870.—The quiet of this place was a pleasing contrast to the stir and bustle I have been in for the two Sundays past, and at breakfast I agreed to join Miss Allan, Mrs. W., and the boys in going to church, which is at Georgeville, some miles distant on the shore of the lake, and the yacht is the means of conveyance to and from. We were rather late in starting, and arrived after the service had begun, but in all it was very brief; and I was rather surprised, after the service had been so much curtailed, to hear the clergyman announce that the homily would be preached in the evening, and the congregation was dismissed in about a quarter of an hour, or less, from the time we had entered. There were few present, and it did not seem to be cause for regret that the people should fail to attend on such ministration. I know not whether there be any other minister in the district more zealous and devoted to his work, but if such services are a characteristic of Episcopacy in Canada, I should fain hope that some other denomination may soon be encouraged to establish a place of worship in the district. I passed the afternoon about the grounds and on the lake, and got another quiet night.

MONDAY, 15TH AUGUST, 1870.—The train for Sherbrooke, on my journey to the eastern townships, was



expected to leave Newport at one ; and we, therefore, got on board the yacht shortly after eleven and proceeded on our voyage, making, however, some deviations from the direct course, from Mr. Allan's desire to give me an opportunity of seeing the various interesting views on the way. We reached about one o'clock, but were no sooner ashore than we learned that there was no train to the north on Mondays till seven in the evening. In these circumstances, Mr. A. thought it best, as I was unwilling to remain till next day, that we should all take luncheon at the hotel, and that I might then accompany them back to his house, and take the steamer which runs between Magog and Newport when passing on her way south the same afternoon. In this way I had ample opportunity for seeing this fine lake, and got to Newport some time before the train reached from the south, by which I got to Lennoxville about nine o'clock, but found that it did not leave there till after a delay of three hours ; and this compelled me to try and get a conveyance to carry me on to Sherbrooke, as I wished then to learn from Mr. Heniker how I should best reach the Lewis people, and I succeeded in inducing a waggoner, with his team, to drive me along for two dollars ; and, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, I set off as soon as I reached the hotel to see this agent for the British American Land Company, and found him most kind and ready to forward my wishes in any way he could. He asked me to call next morning early, and he would then give me directions how to proceed, and aid me in procuring a conveyance to carry me on my journey. So closed my 55th birth-day.

TUESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1870.—I was at Mr. Heniker's by eight o'clock this morning ; and as soon as he had finished his breakfast we set off to the livery stablekeeper, who agreed to give me a waggon, and his boy to drive it



to Winslow (Stornoway Post Office), and he gave me a letter of introduction to Mr. Noble, a storekeeper there, who, he thought, would give me a horse to carry me to Lake Magentic. As soon as this was arranged I set off with Mr. H. to visit the woollen mill of Sherbrooke, in which he is interested as a partner in connection with Mr. Stephen, Montreal, and some others. I am not so skilled in such machinery as to enable me to judge of the merits of the machines in use, but the tweeds and other finished cloths which they showed me I thought equal in appearance to any I had seen. This visit over, I set out on my journey, and a weary day's travel it was, over 52 miles of rough roads, which, including a stoppage of an hour to get our dinner at Bury, about half-way, occupied fully twelve hours, and we did not reach Stornoway till ten o'clock at night. At Bury I met Mr. Noble, on his way to visit a brother who is located in Canada West; and as I explained to him my object, and delivered the letters of introduction which I had received from Mr. Heniker and Mr. Allan, jun., he at once asked me to remain all night at his house, and wrote a letter to Mr. Mackay, his salesman, asking him to give me any aid in his power, and to his daughter, telling her to give me quarters for the night, and in this way we were at once at ease on our arrival at their village. The road, however, did look very long after the night came; and as we could do nothing to avoid the stones and ruts on the road, the jolting of the car was frequently like to throw us out of it altogether as we rumbled over either the corduroy of the marsh or the boulders and holes on the hilly parts. On our way I had met and conversed with several Highlanders; and, among others, when passing Lingwick, I called for the Rev. Mr. ———, the Free Church minister, and for Mr. Ross, a native of Ross-shire, who is settled here as a storekeeper, and is M.P. for the County in the Assembly for the Province. From these

gentlemen I learned that I should require to go on next day to Lake Magentic, a distance of fourteen miles from Mr. Noble's, Stornoway; and I was pleased to learn from them, and from the emigrants I had met, that, on the whole, the Lewismen were getting on very well, and were all satisfied they had benefited by coming to this country. I availed myself of Mr. Noble's invitation, and passed the night at his house, and early next day,

WEDNESDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1870, was on the way to Lake Magentic, where the body of Lewismen are located. It is about fourteen miles from Winslow to the Post Office and small roadside inn near Lake Magentic, and, after putting up the horse there, and asking that they would provide some dinner for us, to be ready on my return, I walked on to the residence of Captain Ramage, on the banks of the lake. The road between Winslow and Lake Magentic, for the greater part of the distance, passes through the unbroken forest, there being very few clearances by the way; and from the greatest height to which one can attain by the way, nothing is visible but the dense foliage of the trees (or "bush," as it is called by the Canadians) far as the eye can reach, and the lake itself is surrounded by the same, the only open space being the limited portion which surrounds Captain Ramage's dwelling. Captain R. has been in correspondence with Mrs. Thomas regarding her scheme for sending out emigrants from Harris and Uist; and I saw working in the garden a young man who had arrived from Harris only a few days before, and who had been engaged by the Captain to work for a year for 100 dollars and his board, an amount which, though possibly less than a workman usually receives in this country, is quite as much as a new comer can be worth until he has acquired some experience at the various kinds of work in use in this country, the practice being

very different from that of the old country cultivation. I had some conversation with Captain Ramage, who informed me that he had settled here with his family in consequence of his having purchased a large area of land in this district, from which he hoped to derive some minerals, and to sell to advantage as soon as eligible settlers can be had to purchase from him; and, of course, the greater the number that may settle in the district, the better will be the demand for land and the supply of labourers to work it. He mentioned that Mrs. Thomas had sent out some emigrants on condition that they should repay the outlay which she had made on their behalf, and had forwarded to him their acknowledgment of their debt, but that he saw no prospect of recovering any part, though he would gladly do so, as the amount would be expended in sending out more emigrants. My impression is that there is no prospect of any funds being obtained from this source, either for promoting emigration or any other object. Captain R. mentioned that Mr. P. Rintoul of Glasgow, and Mr. Shaw, Emigration Agent, Glasgow, are well acquainted with his position and the circumstances under which he had come to Lake Magentic, and would give all useful information to intending emigrants. He asked me, if I see Mrs. Thomas on my return, to explain to her the improbability of realizing cash. After dinner at John McDonald's (Boston), I retraced my way to Winslow, and as soon thereafter as we could change horses I left Mr. Noble's, having first given Miss Noble five dollars to buy a book as a memorial of my hurried visit. We reached Lingwick about half-past seven, and found Mr. Ross, who represents the County of Compton in the Provincial Legislature, and he at once kindly got his wife to prepare tea; and while she was so engaged I passed a half-hour in Mr. R.'s shop or store, discussing with several farmers, resident in the neighbourhood, the



circumstances of the Lewis people who are settled in this and the adjoining townships. Some of the party were Lewismen; and I was pleased to note that, while desirous to uphold the reputation of Lewis, they frankly and fully recognized the superior advantages which the Lewis people had derived from coming to Canada. Some of them, indeed, appear to have forgotten the characteristics of the climate and soil of Lewis, and spoke of it in terms of commendation as an agricultural country, but they did recognise that the fertile land around Lingwick is superior in quality to the most of Lewis. I passed the evening pleasantly with Mr. Ross, talking about the country, its occupiers, and the school system of the Province. Mr. Ross is a native of Ross-shire, and has been long in the country, and is very highly respected by all his neighbours. He has always extended a helping hand readily to poor settlers, and has not so strictly enforced his claims against them as others have usually done; but he expressed the regret that the poor from his native county frequently manifest a desire to lean on any one who gives them aid rather than to make an effort to obtain independence by their own exertions; and for this reason, he is very anxious that some settlers should be induced to come to the eastern townships from parts of Scotland where the system of agriculture is better than the western districts of Ross-shire, and who might, by a better practical example of skill and industry, stimulate the Highlanders to further improvement, as too many of them are ready to rest satisfied as soon as they have attained to a comfortable subsistence, and live on in the log house rather than labour more to get a better dwelling, or otherwise to add to their wealth.

THURSDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 1870.—After an early breakfast with Mr. Ross, I left Lingwick and proceeded to



Sherbrooke, resting at Cookstown for an hour in order to feed the pony. While sitting at the door under the verandah of the inn, a young man came forward and spoke to me, telling me he had passed me in his "buggie" on the previous day when I was on my way to Lake Magentic, as he had then been on his journey from Magentic to this place with his sister, who had been engaged to serve as housemaid in the inn here. She is to receive five dollars per month. I found the young man very intelligent, and sensible of the advantages he and his brothers and sisters had gained by leaving Lewis, though he admitted that for some years after coming out the old folks had wished they were back again. The young men from this district often go to various parts of the United States during the seasons of the year when they can best be spared from their own farms, and they then get employment at high wages, and, after working for some time, return again to their home with the money they have earned. He, however, expressed a doubt how far such a system was prudent, as he felt that their labour on their own land was as necessary and likely to yield a greater profit than any wages they could possibly earn. We reached Sherbrooke in time not only to enable me to join the afternoon train for Montreal, but to call for Mr. Heniker and get my dinner at the inn. I wished to thank Mr. H. for his kindness, which had been of service in facilitating my access to the Lewis people in the eastern townships. I reached the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel about nine in the evening, and was glad to get quickly to bed after the long journeying and little rest of the past few days.

FRIDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 1870.—I had little to do in Montreal. After breakfast I went and called for Buchanan, Leckie & Co., and got my letters and a further supply

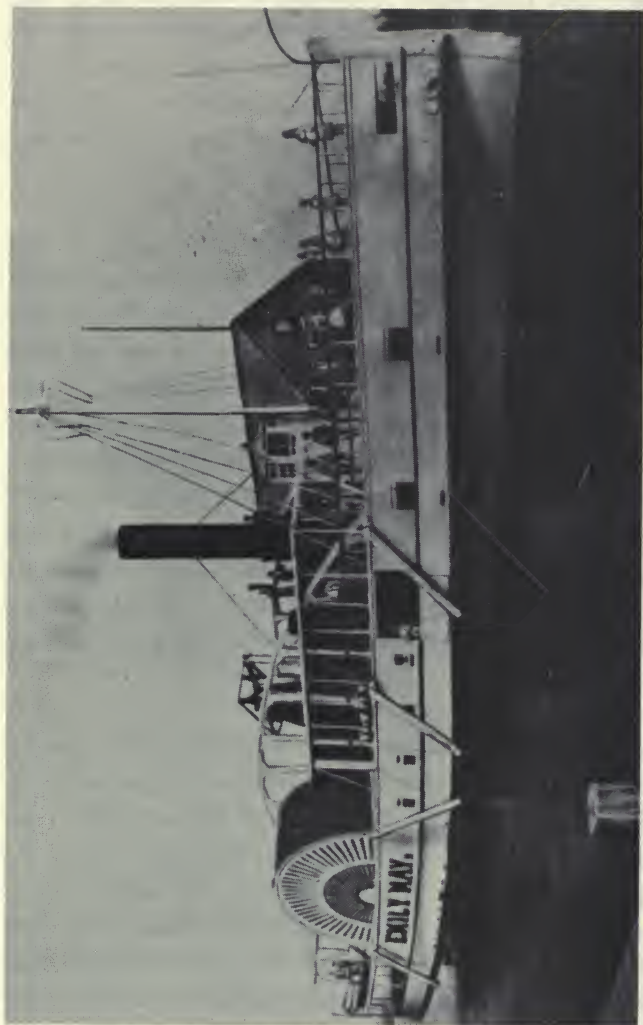
of cash for my journey westward. Called also for Mr. Allan and Mr. Chapman, with whom I left a message for Mr. Monk, saying I should be glad to dine with him the same evening at his club, which I did, and enjoyed myself very much. He seems a fine young fellow, and I trust he may be very successful in the business he has entered on. During the day I delivered some letters of introduction which I had received from Mr. Leitch, Mr. Campbell of Tullichewan, and Mr. Fox, and wandered about to see the public buildings and the town itself, which seems thriving and extensive. From the terrace near Mr. Hugh Allan's town residence I got a good view; but the best I had of the town was from the top of a warehouse occupied by Mr. ———, who was a passenger on board the "Scandinavian." Mr. Allan's house is said to have cost above £15,000. It looks like a greater sum, as the whole is of hewn stone, parts of it ornate, and the rooms are very large—one of them, a saloon or hall for evening parties, being about 70 feet long, and wide and high-roofed in proportion—while the parts I saw of it appeared to be richly furnished. It was Mr. A. who said the house, furnished, cost £15,000. I had intended to go to Lachute on leaving Montreal, and thence to Ottawa; but I was told that I should not do so at the time, as a fire, which was then burning over a great area not far from Ottawa, had so filled the atmosphere with dense smoke and ashes, as to make it difficult and even dangerous to travel. The smoke was so dense as to have led to the shutting of the navigation of the rivers, and I was thus shut off from seeing either the rapids of the St. Lawrence or inquiring as to any memorials of my father at Lachute.

SATURDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 1870.—Left Montreal by 9 a.m., per rail, for Toronto, which I reached in little more than twelve hours, and got to the Rossin House Hotel in

time to go to bed by ten o'clock, or little past it. In railway travelling one gets but an imperfect view of the country; but from what I did see I thought there was little to describe, the land on both sides for the whole journey being but partially cleared from the original forest, so that the alternate succession of a cleared cultivated space and then woodland is the unvarying feature of the scenery as you pass along.

SUNDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1870.—Fatigued by the journey and previous want of sleep I was not early astir, but contrived to get well washed and breakfasted in time to go to church for the morning service. I can say little for the sermon, but the preacher was not the minister of the church in which I worshipped; but, as I learned from Mr. Stalker, who had been a passenger on the "Scandinavian," and who spoke to me as I came out, was there for the day only as a substitute for the gentleman who is in the charge. I found Colonel Ready, who had also been on the "Scandinavian," was staying at the Rossin House, and I had some agreeable conversation with him in the evening.

MONDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1870.—During the day I delivered my letters of introduction, and, among others, that from Mr. Tait to the Hon. George Brown, with whom I had some conversation regarding Highland emigrants, and received from him an invitation to take up my quarters at his house on my return to Toronto. I called also for Mr. Laidlaw, who had offered, on board the "Scandinavian," to aid me in procuring information as to the best mode of travelling, so as to accomplish my object of seeing the greatest number of Islay settlers with the least loss of time. There was no lack of will to help, but none of the gentlemen I knew had any personal knowledge of



*S.S. Emily May, steamer on Lake Simcoe  
from the collection of the Public Archives of Ontario*



either the settlers or the districts in which they are located; and, in these circumstances, I thought my best course was to take the first conveyance for Beaverton, where I might meet some of my old neighbours, or at any rate be near them. On inquiry I was told that I could leave Toronto at 4 p.m., and reach Beaverton the same evening by steamer from Belle Ewart, across Lake Simcoe. On getting this information I resolved to set off the same afternoon, and by little after four I was on my way to Belle Ewart on the cars of the Northern Railway. On reaching the station, however, I learned that there would be no steamer for Beaverton that night, but that I could go by one which was about to start for Orillia; this, however, I declined, and proceeded with my bag to a small inn near the station, and engaged to get my supper and bed there, and to start at ten next morning. While my supper was being prepared, as it was not dusk, I walked down to the quay on the bank of the lake to make some inquiries about the steamer "Emily May," by which I was to get to Beaverton next day. The first person I addressed was the person who was superintending the work that was going on alongside the vessel; and, after some questions as to the sailing and arrival of the vessel, I inquired whether he was a Scotchman, which being answered, I asked where from, when he replied from Islay, and I soon learned that he was now mate on board the "Emily May," his name James Jamieson, and that he was formerly servant with the late Alexander M'Dougall, Ardbeg, whom he tended and took care of for some years. I learned from James that he receives 35 dollars a month (with his food and room) for his services as mate on board the steamer, and that he lives at home during the winter when the navigation of the lake is closed, employed in chopping and preparing the land for receiving the seed in spring—having acquired 200 acres of land, which is all paid, and

of which he has about 45 acres cleared and under cultivation or grass, with two yoke of oxen, three horses, five cows, and twelve sheep. He had about 20 acres this year under crop, all of which is now well secured, and was of good quality. He is married to a daughter of Alexander M'Lean (who went from Eskinish about 30 years since), and has a family of three boys and one girl, the eldest being nine years of age. Charles, a brother of James, who is married to a sister of John M'Millan, is working at Arthurlie, a place not far from Orillia, where he receives good wages as engineer at a saw-mill. Charles is getting on well, and has acquired some land. James expressed himself as being highly pleased with Canada, and thinks he never could have attained to the same independent position if he had remained at home. After coming out, as soon as he had earned some money, he remitted enough to carry out his father and mother, who are both since dead. His parents were not desirous to come; and James, when he sent home the money to pay their passage, had said that if they were unwilling to come he would return and remain with them, but his brother, who was anxious to get to Canada, concealed this part of the letter from the old folks, so that they all went out, and the old man, after getting settled there, told James that he was very much pleased they had come. James thinks it an excellent country for any intelligent sober working-man who is willing to work and turn his hand to anything which he can find to do.

TUESDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 1870.—This morning was dull, and a cloud of fog or Scotch mist covered the lake and prevented me from seeing anything in the neighbourhood of Belle Ewart; but we started from the quay on the arrival of the railway train from Toronto, and proceeded across Lake Simcoe to Beaverton. The fog, however,

by the time we left the quay, had become a dense drizzling rain, so that we saw no land, and the drizzle increased to heavy rain before, and when we reached Beaverton, which was not till near one o'clock. I had some conversation with James Jamieson on the passage, and learned from him that there are a great many Islay men in and near Beaverton; and he mentioned that Duncan M'Nab, the son of Andrew M'Nab from Ballyhatrican, keeps an inn, The Revere House, in the town, and that I was sure to see others of the Islay people there. James spoke in very strong terms of the advantages which working-men have in Canada, as compared with Islay, in bettering their position and acquiring independence, and especially of those who have a family being able to get the whole employed at good wages or settled on land in their own neighbourhood, and alluded to his own circumstances as good evidence that he never could have been so well off, had he remained at home. The heavy rain and mist prevented me from seeing anything of the scenery on the lake, and I was pleased when we approached the landing at Beaverton and got safely ashore in the heavy rain which was falling at the time. I entered, by James Livingston's advice, the omnibus from the Hamilton House Hotel, which was in waiting, and proceeded to the village, at a distance of less than a mile from the quay. After engaging my room, I wandered forth to see the place, under shelter of my umbrella, and very soon saw The Revere House, owned by M'Nab, at a short distance on the opposite side of the street. I entered to inquire for the landlord, and happened to address M'Nab himself, as I met him at the bar. He received me very kindly, and, after introducing me to his wife, I was invited to go upstairs to a private room, and that he would let the Islay people know of my arrival. I was only a few minutes seated listening to M'Nab's report of



his own position and that of his family, and the way in which he had been employed since he came. His first work was on board a steamer on Lake Ontario, where, by attention and intelligence, he soon rose to the command of a vessel plying on Lakes Ontario and Superior. He saved part of his wages while a working hand; and when he got to be captain he received 150 dollars a month, and saved more, and thus soon acquired wealth sufficient to enable him to buy and pay for 200 acres of land, and for the house he now occupies as The Revere House Hotel, which is now worth much more than when he bought it; and when I spoke to him of the undesirable nature of his present employment, especially with reference to the upbringing of his family, he told me that he has in view to sell the house and turn to some other occupation. He spoke very strongly of the advantage which emigration to Canada had been to himself and to all his father's family, and assured me that this was the feeling universally prevailing among the people from Islay; and that although the old people sometimes express a preference for home, they as frequently express a grateful feeling for the incident in their lot which constrained them to come to this country. Before he had finished the interesting narrative of the doings of himself and family, he observed some men working at a waggon in front of his house, and went down to tell them of my arrival. The first who came in was Peter M'Cuaig, a nephew of Archibald M'Nab, Kintra. Peter attended school in Port-Ellen while residing at Kintra, and afterwards was working for me, under Mr. Scott, at Port-Ellen. He inquired very kindly for his relatives, and for Mr. Scott and Mr. Ross, to both of whom he expressed a sense of his obligation. He came out in 1857, and is now settled in the township of Thorah, on the banks of Lake Simcoe, and began his career by working for wages, having soon after purchased 50 acres of land,



which is now mostly cleared, and he has it well stocked with a pair of good horses and some cows and calves. Since he bought the farm he has married Anne Carmichael, whose parents were from Lurabus, and has a son six months old. He said he is much pleased that he came to Canada, and is satisfied with the progress he has made. My next visitor was a son of Duncan Graham, who, with his wife and three of a family, came out from Ballyhatrican in 1863, and came direct to Lindsay per railway. James Graham, the youngest son, my informant, having obtained immediate employment with a cousin, who had been out for some years previous, on a farm in the township of Thorah, while the father and mother lived with a brother of the mother's, who had married a sister of the father's. In this case also the young folks are gratified that they came to Canada. I cannot give particulars of every one I saw, nor even their inquiries and messages to friends; but I may state a few of whom the particulars noted were written down at the time. Archibald Campbell, cartwright, from Lurabus, came out about sixteen years since with his brother William, and has been working for some years past in Beaverton at his trade as a waggon maker, after having worked at farming for some time after his arrival. He is now getting on well at his trade, and has acquired a good property in the town, having a fine orchard, which affords an ample supply of fruits for family use. His wife died this year (Ann Mathieson). She was a daughter of J. Matheson, who perished in a snowstorm at Proaig. He has six children, all at home, the eldest being employed in a store in Beaverton; there are two boys and four girls. He prefers Canada very much to Islay, as work is plenty and food cheap; the work being highly paid now, though not so good when he came here.

Donald and Malcolm Smith, with their mother and two sisters, came out in 1863, and for a few years all worked

for wages; but they have since got a farm of 100 acres at a rent of 60 dollars per annum, which they have now got well stocked with five horses, five cows, and four young beasts, and nineteen sheep, and are now working most of it under the plough, and are doing well, and highly satisfied that they came to Canada, as they can soon buy land and attain an independence.

Duncan McDougall, from Grasdale, with his other brothers and a sister, came out in 1831 or 1832, and have long been settled in the township of Thorah, and have 700 acres among them, while Duncan, in addition, has other property.

John Campbell, from Lurabus, a cousin of Mrs. Calder, Port-Ellen, came out about twenty years since, and is now settled in Thorah, but has a farm of 100 acres in the township of Brock, which he has let, and gets a rent for, from an Irishman. He lives here now, as his only son is in the United States (Michigan) working for wages. He wishes me to tell Mrs. Calder that his mother is still living, though confined to bed, and lives with him on what he can earn for wages and the rent he gets for his farm. He has two daughters married; one of them to an Englishman, the other to Sinclair, an Islay man, whose parents came from Mullindry, and who is a blacksmith, and has a smith's shop, and is doing well.

Alexander Calder, whose father, Donald Calder, came out from the Oa about fifty to fifty-five years since to North Carolina, and then came to Canada. Alexander resided at Fayetteville, N.C., for ten years, and then followed his parents to Canada, and has been resident in Beaverton for forty years past. The father and mother, who are still living with their family, acquired land here when the township of Thorah was first opened up. Alexander is married to a daughter of Donald McNab, who was formerly in Lurabus. She is his second wife, and has a family of a

boy and four girls, the eldest about twelve years of age. He has one boy by his first marriage. He owns 120 acres near this town and 100 acres about a mile further off, and is in comfortable circumstances; having no thought of the old country, though he likes to hear of it and to see any one who, like myself, knows his relatives and friends. When he came here there was no cleared land around Beaverton.

Angus M'Dougall, from Grasdale, a cousin of the M'Dougalls who are at present resident in Grasdale, came out about forty years since with his parents when he was about nine years old. His father and mother acquired land and settled in Thorah, and continued to reside in the same place till their death, about a year past. Angus is married, and has a family of eleven children, all living. He has three brothers, all settled on the same clearing, which is more than 600 acres in extent, and they are all well off and amply provided for.

The foregoing may be taken as specimens of the reports which I received here; and as the day continued wet I was obliged to give up the thought of visiting any of the farms in the neighbourhood, or proceeding to Woodville, where the Rev. John M'Tavish resides; and, in consequence, I passed the most of the afternoon in conversation with my numerous visitors who thronged the room, whether at D. M'Nab's or at the hotel where I lived and slept.

BEAVERTON, WEDNESDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1870.—After an early breakfast I went to Mr. M'Nab's to ascertain whether he thought he could that day convey me to Woodville; and as it still rained, I was glad to learn that he thought the rain was likely to cease, and that the weather would clear up, so that we might in some comfort make the journey. His prediction was verified about an hour after;



The Reverend Dr. John MacTavish, minister of Woodville, Eldon Township, Ontario



and we set off on his waggon, drawn by an excellent pair of well-bred horses, which conveyed us quickly over the very wet and muddy uneven road till we came near to the farm of Donald M'Nab, formerly tenant of Lurabus, and my old neighbour when I was in Cornabus, when we turned off the direct road for the purpose of enabling me to call and see Donald on my way to Woodville. Donald came out in 1846, and settled with his family near Beaverton, and in the house which he now occupies, surrounding which he has 200 acres of land, part of which is held by his son Colin, about one-half of the whole being now cleared from timber. His son John and his wife live with him. John's wife was a daughter of M'Arthur's, who was in Tocmal. They have seven horses, twenty cows, and thirty sheep, and about forty acres under crop, besides a large quantity of hay. One of Donald's daughters is married to Mr. A. Calder, Beaverton, already referred to; another is married to one Brown in this district; and the other sons are all employed in various parts in this district. John has six children—four boys and two girls. Colin has been married three times, and has a very numerous family. As we approached I saw the old man working in the garden near the house, and dismounted for the purpose of meeting him as he left his work to give us welcome. At first he did not recognize me, but did so as soon as I spoke, and gave me a most hearty welcome. I accompanied him to the house, where I saw his son's wife and some of her children, and sat for half-an-hour chatting over matters with the old man; and I was glad to learn that, notwithstanding losses which he had sustained from becoming surety for a son, he was still very comfortable and very contented with the measure of success which he had attained in Canada, and pleased for the sake of his family that he came here when he did. He is now 83 years of age, but was very hale and strong-

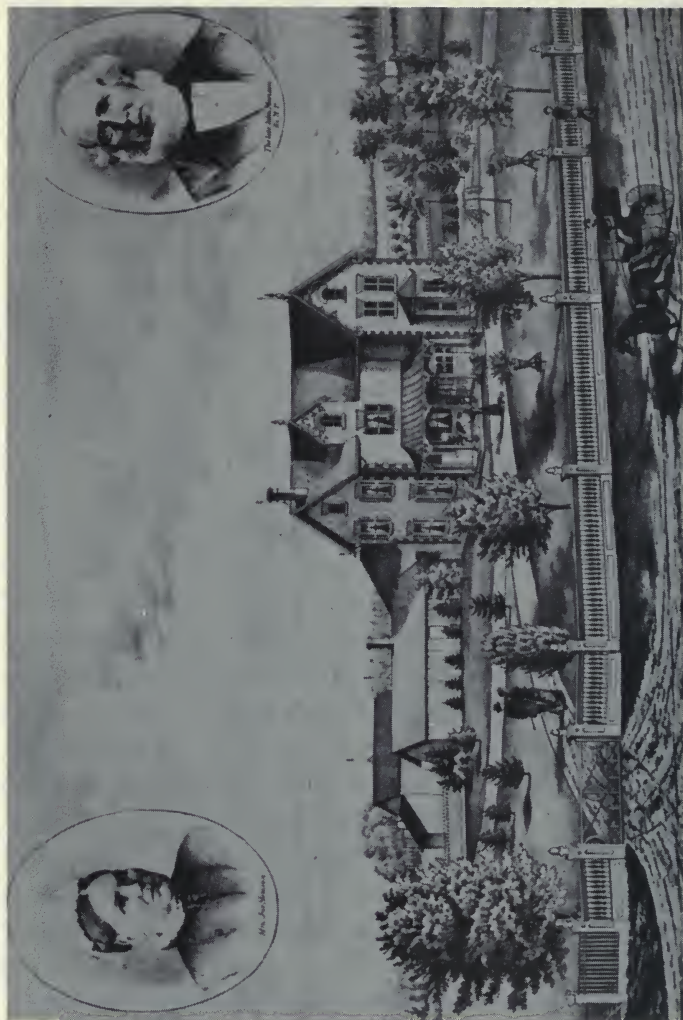
looking for his years. After leaving Donald, my companion pointed out the residence of several Islay settlers as we passed along, and gave me at same time some idea of the success which they had secured in their different places. We reached Woodville before one o'clock afternoon; and M'Nab drove direct to Mr. M'Tavish's manse, whom I was glad to meet, and to find him and his family all well.

Intending to return with Mr. M'Nab to Beaverton, I had left my bag; but Mr. M'T. urged me to remain all night, and to take a drive with him to see some of the Islay people in Orillia and Maripossa; and, after seeing Mr. M'Nab and arranging with him, I finally agreed to remain, and we soon after had dinner, which, when finished, was the preliminary for a drive of some miles from Woodville, along a road the whole of which, on both sides, was mostly settled by Islay people. I wished to get as far as the residence of old William Gilchrist, formerly mason in Port-Ellen; but the evening soon closed upon us, and, as Mr. M'Tavish had announced that he would be present at a prayer-meeting held that evening in the locality, we were obliged to return without seeing William. Mr. M'T., however, was kind enough to send a message by a neighbour, telling William that I was to sleep all night at the manse, and that he might come and see me the following morning. On the way I had seen and conversed with a number of settlers from Islay; and their account of their circumstances was generally very pleasing, as they all spoke cheerfully of the abundance of all the necessaries of life which they possessed, in contrast with their straitened means at home.

On our return to the manse I was advised that I should remain, rather than accompany Mr. M'Tavish to the meeting; and, after tea, I walked into the village, and called at the shop of John Jamieson, who came out from Lagavullin some years since, and now keeps a store

here, and is doing well. He suggested that I should call on some other of the neighbours, which I did in his company; and I was no sooner seated in the snug, well-furnished room, than several of the people came in—among others, a sister of the late Ronald Hunter's, who was married to —— Campbell, a mason from Port-Allen, who came out here some years since, but is since dead; and his widow, whom I saw, now lives here with her family, who are doing well. We were shortly after joined by Mr. Morrison, M.P. for the County, who came to see me, as he had visited Islay some years since for the purpose of seeing the Oa, where he was brought up, and of which he had some recollection. At that time he was living with the Rev. Mr. Dewar, and had been a fellow-passenger with me on board of the steamer going to Islay. Mrs. Campbell made numerous inquiries for her old neighbours and friends in Port-Allen, and especially for Mrs. William Calder and her sisters, and for Flora; and, as she appeared much interested in the Calders, I gave her a small photograph of the cottage which I received before leaving home, and in which the likeness of Flora was introduced as part of the picture, and she seemed very much gratified by the gift.

After a short time passed in general conversation about Islay and emigration, in which all joined, and appeared to agree that the removal of a great proportion of the people was not only necessary, but an advantage to those who remove, Mr. Morrison expressed a desire that I should visit his house and see his wife, which I did, and was there introduced to a son of Mr. White, late Preceptor of Hutcheson's Hospital, Glasgow; the young man having been sent to Canada by his father on account of his dissipated habits, which, I fear, are not wholly changed for the better. Later in the evening we were joined by Mrs. M'Tavish, who had come to seek me for



The Morison house, Beaverton, where John Ramsay was found "seated in a crowded room"



the purpose of getting me to visit Mr. Morrison's house, in which she found me sitting in a crowded room. I declined the offer of any refreshment, and returned to the manse to supper with Mrs. M'Tavish, and spent an hour or two pleasantly in converse with Mr. M'T., who had then returned.

THURSDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 1870.—Breakfast was early at the manse; and Mr. M'Tavish had arranged that we should proceed to Beaverton immediately after, that I might be able there to join the steamer "Emily May" on her way to Orillia, and from thence through Oro to Barrie, where there is a station of the Northern Railway, by which I might get either to Collingwood, or back to Toronto, as I might deem best.

We got to Beaverton in good time, but I found that some shirts which I had left to be washed were not forthcoming; and, as I did not wish to leave without them, I waited on till after the waggons with the mail and passengers had left the hotel, and Mr. M'Tavish again put his waggon in order, and we set out together to seek after the washerwoman who had the shirts. We soon got to her dwelling; and, as the steamer was nigh, I bundled the shirts, wet and undressed, into my bag, and drove off to the pier, where we found the steamer just landing her passengers from Belle Ewart. I had previously said good-bye to Mr. M'Nab and my other friends at Beaverton; and, having parted from Mr. M'Tavish, I joined the "Emily May," and was shortly after on my way to Orillia. The day was fine, and I had a good opportunity of seeing Lake Simcoe, the banks of which, being all clothed with timber, and nearly all on a level plain, present few features that attract attention. There are several islands on the lake, on some of which there are parties of Indians engaged in trapping animals for the

sake of the skins, of which they dispose in the towns, selling them to the merchants for the best price they can get. We reached the north end of Lake Simcoe in less, I think, than two hours; but the narrow sound at the north, over which the public road is carried by a draw-bridge, we found blocked by a tug steamer, which was towing through a huge raft of wood for the purpose of conveying it to the lumber mills at Belle Ewart, on the western shore of the lake, at the point where I had embarked when on my way to Beaverton. This obstruction caused considerable delay; and the "Emily May," in consequence, turned in and moored at Arthurlie, where there are also large mills for lumber, and remained there until the raft was clear of the narrow channel, when we proceeded, and shortly after landed at Orillia. Mr. M'Tavish had given me a letter of introduction to the Rev. Mr. Gray, the Presbyterian minister at Orillia; and I left my luggage at the hotel and set off at once to seek Mr. Gray, so that I might learn from him where and how I should best find out the people from Islay, who have settled in the township of Oro. I soon reached Mr. Gray's residence; and, with a view to my getting to Barrie on the evening of the following day, he advised that I should take a conveyance the same evening from Orillia, and drive to the manse of the Rev. Mr. Ferguson, in whose church the most of the Islay people assemble for worship, as Mr. F. could tell me their circumstances and convey me to their homes better than any one could do who might be sent from Orillia. To facilitate my movements, he at once accompanied me to the keeper of a horse, and arranged with him to bring a "buggie" to a house in the town, where he wished me to visit and take tea. He agreed, also, to give me a letter of introduction to Mr. Ferguson; assuring me, at the same time, that he would be glad to see me, and to do anything in his power to forward my object.

The house to which I went for tea was that of a relative of Mr. Gray's; and I passed a pleasant hour in conversation with those present about emigration, and the prospects of poor emigrants who are landed in this country penniless in so great numbers. Mr. ——— was present, he having just come from the Muskoka Territory, to which many poor settlers have been induced to go by the offer of free grants of land from the Government of the Province, which is anxious to encourage the settlement of the territory as speedily as possible. Mr. ——— had acquired a considerable extent of land there, and had been residing there for some years; but he proposes now to sell his land and settle elsewhere. He spoke more favourably of the districts than any other person I met; and, when I quoted his opinion, I was told that he praised merely from a desire to get settlers located there, as such would enhance the selling price of his own land. I cannot judge what ground there is for this allegation of partiality; but, as I was told by several persons whom I met, casually, that the Muskoka Territory is much broken up by rocks and crags, and is, to great extent, incapable of cultivation, I should not be disposed to recommend new settlers to go there without further inquiry. After tea I had a pleasant ride to Mr. Ferguson's, so far as the evening was concerned; but the roads here, as elsewhere, are not what we should think of at home as suitable for spring carriages of any kind. Mr. and Mrs. F. received me kindly, and agreed to put me up for the night; and, after some time spent in conversation, I went to bed, but not to sleep, as the bed was very soft and the night very hot.

FRIDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1870.—Immediately after breakfast Mr. F. prepared his waggon or buggy, and we set out on our way through Oro; the first house we called at

being a public-house, not far from the manse, kept by ——— Galbraith, who went from Assabus, in the Oa, many years since, and has now land here, and keeps this little wayside inn. Galbraith himself was not at home; but we saw a niece of his, who had just arrived as we approached the house, and Mr. F. explained to her that I had called to see her uncle, and that she should tell him on his return to the house, which she promised to do. Mr. F., as we went along, pointed out several clearances occupied by Islay men; and, on the roadside, a few miles on, he accosted one rather advanced in life—Angus Morrison, from Stremnish, who has 50 acres of land which he got from his brother. His land is free of debt, and his family decent and industrious; but Morrison's appearance indicated neither mental nor physical energy, nor the type of industry in his habits. Not far from Morrison's we came to two farms, one on each side of the road—the one occupied by Neil Beaton, the other by Neil Matheson. Both of these men came from Stremnish, I think, in 1863. Neil Beaton has 200 acres of land clear of debt, and has fully 40 acres of it clear of timber, and now under grass and crop. His wife and family are all well, though they had much sickness for some time after their arrival. He has a good house; two yoke of oxen and two cows, with followers; and abundance of everything they need. His family consists of three boys and six girls, one of whom is married to an Islay man. Neil Matheson has a family of three boys and four girls. Three of the girls are married to Islay men; and one of his sons, who is married to an Islay woman, has a farm in Medonta.

Mr. Ferguson got off the "buggie," and told the heads of both families that I was on the road waiting to see them. Beaton and Matheson both came, quickly followed by their wives, with whom I spoke for some time, Mr. Ferguson occasionally acting as interpreter. They told



me that Donald M'Kay's family, four girls, are all doing well, and have their farm clear. I was surprised to find the old people speak so warmly of their love of the country of their adoption, as they unanimously asked Mr. F. to assure me they are doing well, and that they are three times better off than they were in Stremnish. Matheson has his farm rented at five dollars per annum; but wished me to tell his old neighbours that they are doing well, and wished me to tell Duncan M'Nab that they have plenty of food and clothes; and kindly inquiring after John Gilchrist and Donald Smith, shoemaker, and John M'Innes, and wished them all to know that they are well and getting on well. I parted from them much gratified that those who had left their native place so recently are now so well pleased in Canada, and so anxious to impress me with an adequate sense of the advantages they have gained by their removal.

The next place at which we stopped was a house on the road side, in which Mrs. Andrew M'Nab, from Tocmal, now resides. Her husband came out thirty-four years since; and his family are all doing well. Mrs. M'Nab had a sister, who, she understands, is still living at Coilabus; but I could give her no information. A little further on, Mr. F. mentioned that a house on the road side, in the midst of a considerable extent of cultivated land, was occupied by one from Islay; and I got off the car, and, crossing the fence, was soon at the door, which was open, and, on entering, I found seated Dugald Carmichael, who was formerly with Mr. Wilson, Laorin. He came out with his wife and family three years since, and rents the farm which he now occupies on a lease for four years at a rent of 50 dollars. There are near 40 acres of it under the plough, and he is getting on very well. The two girls, who were sitting at table at dinner with their father and mother, were tidy and clean—as was also the house and

table—but looked very delicate, and had recently suffered from some sickness, but are now getting better. The wife inquired for Mrs. Calder, Port-Ellen, and for Ann (at The Cottage), and said she is a relative of Ann's, for whose mother also she made inquiry. Shortly after rejoining Mr. Ferguson on the road, we met with Neil M'Intyre, son of the former miller at Kilchoman, who has been here fifteen years, and is doing well. He has no family; but his mother lives with him. We met also Duncan M'Dougal, son of Archibald M'Dougal, who came to Canada about forty years since, and is now living here. His mother was named M'Arthur, from Oa. M'Dougal said he has a farm of 50 acres, and is doing very well. At a short distance from the place where we had stopped to speak to M'Intyre, we came to the farm now occupied by Norman M'Cuaig, who came to Canada from Glenasdale, Oa, in 1863. Norman was at work in the field in front of his house, and some of his children, who were near the road, were called by Mr. Ferguson, who requested them to tell their father and mother that we wished to speak to them. Both of them were very soon with us, and greatly delighted by the unexpected appearance of a visitor from Islay. Norman has a family of four boys and five girls. The eldest girl is married to a son of John Campbell's, formerly in Lurabus, and they have two children. Norman's brother, who came out with him from Glenasdale, is settled on land near Collingwood, and has been getting on well. Norman occupies land, the owner of which is unknown, and his family are doing well; though I was sorry to learn that the habits in which Norman sometimes indulged at home continue, and hinder his progress and prosperity here. His wife, an active-looking, intelligent woman, spoke cheerfully of the prospects for her family, and made kind inquiries after all friends at home, not omitting kind reference to my own

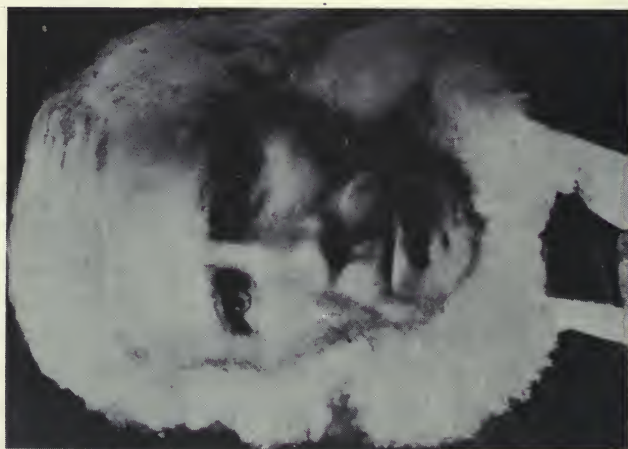
family circle, and my own loss in the death of Mrs. Ramsay, subsequent to their removal from Islay. She mentioned with much gratitude her recollection of receiving a sovereign from Mr. Stein when she was on the quay at Port-Ellen, before leaving Islay. They have heard occasionally of Islay; but had previously seen no visitor to Canada, nor received any direct news. I think she said she was a M'Taggart, from Giol; and inquired for the Killean tenants, and all their old neighbours.

On the side of the same road, and immediately opposite to Norman M'Cuaig's, stands the house of Archibald M'Cuaig, who left Coilabus (Oa) in 1862, with his family of twelve young children. I regretted to learn from the M'Cuaig's, his neighbours, that Archibald was not at home; but they told me that the land he occupies is his own, and that he and all his family are doing well, and have an ample supply of the necessaries of life, in greater comfort than they ever had at home; some of the young ones being absent working for wages.

After parting from the M'Cuaig's, we drove on till we came to the residence of Alexander Campbell, a carpenter, who came out from Lurabus in 1831. His mother, who is still living, is an elder sister of Alexander and Duncan M'Cuaig, Port-Ellen, and is, therefore, their nephew. Alexander has one son, George, a fine-looking young man, whom I saw, and he has two daughters, one of them married to a lowland Scotchman, who is settled in Oro in their neighbourhood; the other, married to a Scotchman named Brown, from near Biggar, in Lanarkshire, and who is now in business in Barrie, as a nursery and seedsman. Alexander has 100 acres in his own hand, besides other property. His garden is a very good one, the vegetation most luxuriant; I was interested to hear from Alexander a narrative of their trials on their first arrival in this country. He, with his brothers—Archibald and Angus—



Twin sons of John Campbell and Janet McCuaig,  
Alexander (left) and Archibald (above)





and their mother and father, in all, eight of a family, left Lochindaal, on the 16th July, 1831, and landed at Quebec, on the 16th September following, having been nine weeks on board ship. After landing at Quebec, they ascended the St. Lawrence to a place not far from Montreal, where, in conjunction with other seven or eight families, they built a boat, on board of which they proceeded westward by the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario, and landed near Toronto, when they put their boat on a waggon, and dragged it across the country for 36 miles to Lake Simcoe, from which they again landed near Barrie, or rather about six miles from the site which Barrie now occupies, as there were no houses there at that time. They bought their 100 acres of land from a half-pay officer, who had received a grant of 1,000 acres on the banks of the lake; but there were neither roads nor houses, and they had to commence their operations on the unbroken forest. They worked for some years, after fixing their location, on the vessels trading on the lakes; but the brothers have all been now settled for many years on farms of their own in this district, which, from the settlement of themselves and others, natives of the Oa, has come to be known as the Oa, after the name of their native parish. From each member of the family I received a hearty welcome, and was hospitably entertained, as they did everything they could to make me comfortable; and when Mr. Ferguson explained that he would prefer to return home, and that they should send me on, they very promptly agreed to do so. The appearance of their farms, and the buildings, and fine crops, with their stock of cattle and horses, gave good evidence of the comfort and independence which they have attained, even if I had not been informed of their wealth from others, as well as from their own lips. The garden around the house was filled with a great variety



The Guthrie Church Choir, Oro Township, c. 1903 consisting of Islay descendants or people married to them except for the organist.

Front: Neil MacCuaig

Middle: Euphemia Ross, Bella Brown, Wm. Robertson (organist) Ellen Morrison, Maggie Ross

Back: Alexander Campbell, Mary McCulloch, George H. Campbell, Aggie Ross, Norman Campbell, Fanny Metcalfe, Archie D. Campbell, Kate McCulloch, Alexander Muir

of vegetables, and some vines were trained near the paling on a part best exposed to the sun. Mr. C. has a number of different vines, and is trying to raise a variety suited to their climate, which may ripen its fruit in the open air. It appears that the vine has been found indigenous on the banks of Lake Erie, and he infers that any native plant may be matured and improved by cultivation. I was pleased to see that the settlers generally are planting extensive orchards, and if Mr. C. should succeed as well with vines, as he has with the apples in his orchard, he will have good cause to be satisfied, as the trees were heavily laden with a crop of apparently very fine fruit. After some hours passed in hearing reports of Islay people in the district, whom I was unable to visit, I left the snug dwelling on a waggon drawn by a fine pair of horses. It was seated for four, and Alexander himself sat with me on the back seat, while his son George acted as driver, and we proceeded on the road for Barrie. They agreed to take me to the farm of Henry M'Cuaig, from Stremnish, but they wished also that I should see their mother; and so on our way we called at her house, but found that she was at church,\* this being kept as what they call "Good Friday," or what we at home would style the "Fast-Day" of the parish. We met, however, the two brothers—Archibald and Angus—who seemed both glad to meet me, though I found here, and elsewhere, that a rumour of my intention to visit Canada had prepared them for meeting me, in consequence of my having mentioned my thoughts of making the voyage at the public meeting in Port-Ellen. Archibald and Angus both got on to the front seat of the waggon beside George, their nephew, and we drove to the church that I might see their mother after its dismissal, and any other Islay folks who might be in attendance. On reaching the building, we had not

\* *The church referred to is Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Oro Township.*



Sons of Archibald Campbell, Oro. Left to right, standing:  
Neil John, schoolteacher at Shanty Bay; Donald, bank clerk in  
Barrie; seated: Alexander II, Angus and Archibald II



long to wait, when the congregation came out, and were proceeding homewards, when my friends got their mother and sister, and I answered the old lady's inquiries for her friends as best I could. She was looking hale and hearty, and active and stout, for her years. At Alexander's house I met Donald Gilchrist, who at one time kept the New Inn at Port-Ellen, but has now acquired a farm, and been settled here for some years—his mother, and the rest of the family, having come with him from Ballychatrican, and he wished me to let their old friends know that his mother is well, and that all the rest of the family are well, and doing well. At the church I met a daughter of old Angus Gilchrist, who came out from Craigabus, about thirteen years since, and who is married to a farmer in Oro, named Colquhoun, who came from Campbeltown, and is now well off. I saw also her brother, William Gilchrist, who was working on his farm as we passed along; he was much pleased to see me, and expressed himself as much pleased with his present position. After conversing with several others, we drove from the church on to Harry M'Cuaig's, whom we found in the fields near to his dwelling. The crops were very good; he dug some potatoes, which appeared to be of good quality, and were very abundant. I was pleased here to observe a young orchard, planted, as I was assured, with the best varieties of fruit trees; and when I entered the tidy dwelling, I could not but remark on the baking which the wife had just completed, as some fifteen or sixteen loaves were laid out on the table to cool, before being laid past. Harry himself said, "You see" (pointing to the bread) "Mr. Ramsay, we had none of this at Stremnish," to which I replied, that it was doubtful if she would have had the skill when she was there, to bake the bread, even if they had got the wheat flour; and I was told that she had learned to bake since her arrival in Canada. After

leaving Harry's, we drove quickly on to Barrie, where we arrived before dark; and as George was anxious I would go to his sister's house, I agreed to do so, and the old man and I sat and chatted with his daughter, Mrs. Brown, while George went off and put up the horses to rest and feed; but they soon after left to return home, and I remained as the guest for the night of Mr. and Mrs. Brown. So far as I had opportunity of judging, I was very much pleased with the simple Christian character of this young couple—they had only been married a few months. Mrs. Brown had previously taught a school, but seemed to attend to her husband's business in his shop or store with as much attention as if she had been trained to it all her life, while her house was in all respects clean and tidy. I shall be deceived if they are not happy as man and wife. Any wife at home, in the same circumstances, would have had one servant, if not two; but here they help themselves, and it seems better that they should.

SATURDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 1870.—Mr. and Mrs. Brown were early astir, and we got our breakfast over by eight o'clock; and as I had my choice of potatoes or porridge, I preferred the oatmeal, and as I had had no supper, was ready to enjoy the porridge and milk, which latter was very good, and the former also of fine quality. We had not well finished, when a cousin of Mrs. Brown's called to ask that I would take a drive with him for an hour in his "buggie," to see Barrie, and its vicinity, to which I readily assented; and we soon after drove off to the west of the town, by the road leading to the new railway station, at which the cars leave the main line, and side off to Barrie. The morning was very fine, and the view of Lake Simcoe was pleasing, while my young companion was able to point out to me satisfactory evidence of the recent rapid growth of Barrie, in which he takes a warm

interest, as he is now appointed as agent here for a bank, the business of which he expects will increase very rapidly under his care. This youth is a son of one of the Campbell's from Lurabus, with whom I was yesterday. When a boy he lost one of his feet from having got entangled in a thrashing mill; this accident led his father to send him to a bank office in Toronto as a clerk, and from that office he had been advanced to his present charge. He seems a fine, active, energetic young man, and I trust he may please his employers by successful prudent management. His features are not so handsome and open as those of his cousin George, who was yesterday the driver of his father's waggon, but both of them are fine-looking young men, good specimens of native Canadians. As George has not had much intercourse with other districts, even in Canada, I endeavoured to persuade him to visit Scotland, and to see his friends, and the system of agriculture practised in our better-cultivated districts, and I promised to do everything I could to forward these objects, if he would let me know when he comes. As he is unmarried, his father seemed willing that he should come, as he might not so well get away if he once had a family; and I suggested that he might also get a wife when in Scotland, of which the father evidently approved, on the ground that American ladies are too fastidious. Shortly after my return from my drive with young Campbell, I parted from my friends, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, as well as other Islay residents, who had that morning come to Barrie, as it was the market-day. Among these were several of my neighbours from the Oa; two of the sons of Donald M'Nab from Lurabus, who are settled in this neighbourhood, one of them a tailor, a quiet-looking decent man; the other I fear not so well doing, and whose adventures in trade or in store-keeping had caused the old man to suffer considerable losses—he



had become security in some way for the transactions of this imprudent son. Any information I could pick up had led me to resolve that I would proceed to Stayner Station that day, and try to get the length of Bowmore, a town so named, at some distance to the west, and there obtain such information as I could regarding settlers from Islay located in that neighbourhood. The train was late in reaching Stayner; and immediately on arrival I proceeded through the village in search of one Mr. Hill, a tailor, who I was told could give me every information about Islay people, as he was himself an emigrant from Islay, and had long been settled there. I soon found Mr. Hill's shop, and speedily learned from him that I was unable to reach Bowmore in time to see any residents there, and return that afternoon in time to join the train for Toronto the same evening; and he suggested that I should rather take a drive and see some Islay men who are settled not so far from the station. While we were speaking on the subject of my movements, a young man, who had observed me from the inner apartment of the shop, came forward, and addressed me by name; and, although I did not at first recognise him, I found on inquiry that he had been a teacher in the Flat of Gruinart, Islay, when I paid the teacher's salary there; his name and character must be well known to the Rev. Mr. Cameron, who engaged him. I can now recollect Mr. Peter M'Eachern, though I have but little recollection as to his character or attainments. He is now, however, settled as a teacher near Stayner. It appears he is a second cousin of Ronald M'Donald's, who, if I recollect aright, he said is working with Mr. Scott at Port-Ellen. Old M'Eachern was a blacksmith at Conispy. Keir, the innkeeper and wright, at Bowmore, is married to a cousin of Mr. Hill's, at Stayner, and Mr. H. wished me to let him know that he is well, and getting on well; has two boys





Peter MacEachern and his son John, donor of  
the MacEachern Library of Canadiana to the  
University of Western Ontario



Mrs. Peter MacEachern (Rachel Gillespie) and  
her sister-in-law

living, the others are dead, and that Stayner is his Post-Office. He came out twenty-three years since. I invited Mr. M'Eachern to be my companion for my drive, to which he agreed very gladly; and in a few minutes after we were on our way in a "buggie" which I hired in the village. In passing through the street we stopped to speak to a man named M'Dougal, from Port-Ellen, who inquired for Mrs. Donald M'Dougall, innkeeper, and their family, and others in Port-Ellen; but as I had little time I drove on, in the hope of seeing him on my return. We had only travelled about four miles, and put back for the purpose of making some calls at houses occupied by Islay men, which we had passed on the roadside. The first we came to was Dugald Carmichael, blacksmith, from Bridgend, who came out twenty-eight years since, and continues to keep up his smithy and work at his trade; but he has also a farm, containing 300 acres of good land, and is doing well, being much pleased that he came out, as he thinks that he never could have done so well at home. I next drove off the road a little way to call at the house of Alexander Currie, who came out in 1831, and was fourteen weeks on the passage. He has been in this township (Nottawasaga) for twenty-nine years past, settled on the land which he now occupies, which extends to 250 acres, of very fine quality, having now as much cleared of timber as he intends to cut down. He has a fine orchard, and the crops of wheat and oats looked very good. His wife is also from Islay; her name is Hayman, and she has an aunt at Islay House married to Neil Orr. M'Eachern told me that Currie has means besides his farm, and is very well off; and M'E. expressed himself as much pleased that he himself had left Islay. On our way we had to leave other houses unvisited, and on the roadside, at the point where it turns to go to Currie's from Stayner, M'E. pointed out to me a wayside inn and waggon



Fairview Farm built by Archibald,  
brother of Peter MacEachern

The Morrison farmhouse in  
Nottawasaga, built 1869, in the  
area visited by John Ramsay



makers' shops belonging to a nephew of old Mrs. M'Gregor, who kept the little public-house at Emerycornast, and who, if he would but keep sober, would soon acquire wealth. After getting some dinner hastily at the inn, I parted with Mr. Hill, and walked to the station in company with Mr. M'Eachern. On our way, I observed a signboard having "Neil Campbell" very conspicuously displayed on it, and I crossed the road to ask whether Neil was from Islay, and on telling Mr. M'E. my object he told me that he was. On entering the shop, Neil was entering from the other side, carrying a tray covered with sponge cake and other fancy bread, which he had brought from the bakehouse to be ready for sale. Neil had worked as a baker in Bowmore, and came here about seven years since, and is married to a niece of Peter M'Eachern's, the pilot of the "Islay" steamer, to whom both Neil and his wife desired to be remembered; and Neil wished me to tell John Currie, Bowmore, that he is now well, and doing very well. His shop was very clean, and had a thriving appearance. My companion pointed out several farms in Nottawasaga, occupied by brothers named M'Arthur from Cairndonachy; and he told me that Roderick M'Eachern, a brother of Peter, the "Islay" pilot, lives in Stayner, and works at his trade as a tailor. After parting with Neil Campbell and his wife, I got on to the cars, and was soon on my way to Toronto, having resolved to return there and spend the Sunday, rather than go to Collingwood; the report of the inns there being unfavourable, and I hoped to receive letters from home. I reached Toronto about 9 p.m., and was very soon after in bed.

SUNDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 1870.—In the forenoon I attended Knox Church, and in the afternoon I called at the residence of the Hon. George Brown, and passed the evening very pleasantly in conversation with him



and his wife, about the country and its condition as regards its moral and material interests. Mr. Brown kindly furnished me with a letter of introduction to a gentleman resident at Owen Sound, as I had resolved to leave for that place on the following morning at seven o'clock. This letter proved to be of little use, as the person addressed, I found afterwards, was then in Europe, but it was little needed.

MONDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1870.—We reached Collingwood about half-past twelve noon, but there was no steamer, though I had been informed that if the regular vessel, the “*Frances Smith*,” was not ready, I should find the “*Wabuno*” waiting to convey passengers to Owen Sound. Happily, however, about two o'clock, I saw a steamer in the distance coming towards Collingwood, along the Georgian Bay, and on arrival, she proved to be the “*Frances Smith*,” and by four o'clock we were under way, and making progress to Owen Sound. We touched at Meaford by the way, but were not long detained, and before ten o'clock at night I was safely lodged in Coulson's Hotel. On the voyage I had made inquiry to ascertain whether any of the hands were from Islay, and I found that one of them, named M'Leod, was steersman, and I soon tried to see him. He was, however, occupied with his work until we were near the place; but, in the short time we had, I found his name was M'Cuaig (not M'Leod); that he came out from Glenasdale with the rest of the family, some thirteen years since, and is a nephew of Dugald M'Cuaig, labourer, who still lives about Craigabus. He inquired after Dugald, and other old friends, but I was unable to give much information. He directed me, however, how I should best reach Neil Gilchrist, and some other old neighbours whom I wished to see, and as this was all I required, I went soon to bed to prepare for my journey the following day.

TUESDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 1870.—This morning, before I had finished dressing, my room door was assailed by the waiter knocking and telling me that Mr. Black had come to call for, and wished to see me. On opening my door I was pleased to see a fine young sailor ready to welcome me, and evidently much pleased to do so. The “Wabuno,” on board of which vessel young Black is the mate, had arrived at Owen Sound during the night, and M’Cuaig had at once proceeded to tell Black of my arrival, and hence my early visit; as the “Wabuno” was to leave for ports further north as soon as her cargo and fuel was got on board. After we had answered mutual inquiries, I accompanied him to the house and workshop of James M’Kerrel, son of Archibald M’Kerrel, Port-Ellen, whom we saw, and was pleased to learn that he is doing well. I saw also two of his girls—very neat and clean. M’K. told us that his brother William resides on his farm, about four miles distant, but as it is in a direction opposite to that where Neil Gilchrist and William Black are located, I resolved not to go and see William M’Kerrel, but to rest satisfied with the very satisfactory report of his prosperity which I received from the others. Young Black was anxious to accompany me on my journey, but I persuaded him not to think of such a thing, though he assured me he did not value his place, as he thought he would be more profitably employed by working at home, but that his wages furnished ready cash to supply any wants. He spoke very warmly of the advantages they had gained by coming to Canada; and said that though his father in winter sometimes expresses a wish that he had never left the old country, yet that in summer he is always well pleased for the sake of his family, adding—“You see, Sir, every one of us can get on well here if we only will it, and be steady and pay attention.” The failure to succeed of any who have come to Canada

from Islay, he attributes exclusively to their own lack of either steadiness or a will to work. He told me that A. M'Cuaig, or M'Leod, to whom I have already referred, the steersman on board the "Frances Smith," is a son of D. M'Cuaig's, who came out from Glenasdale about thirteen years since. His father has acquired land in the neighbourhood, and he and his family are doing well. On inquiring for Sandy Kerr (Janet's brother), I was told that he is steersman on board the "Algoma," a steamer which plies on Lake Huron, and goes also, I think, to Lake Superior. Mave Kerr is at Egremont, so far off my way that I cannot see her without a day's travel. After leaving James M'Kerrel's, I accompanied William Black to the "Wabuno," and saw him resume his charge, and I returned to the inn to get breakfast, and then start for my journey to Southampton, taking a detour for the purpose of seeing Neil Gilchrist and William Black on my journey. I was fairly on the road about nine o'clock, and though the road was rough, we reached Neil's before twelve noon. His sons were busily engaged housing their wheat crop, which was of good quality, and I found Neil, with his staff in his hand, resting at the end of the barn, looking at the young men at their work. I did not expect that he would remember me; but I had no sooner spoken to him than he grasped my hand with a hearty welcome, and led me off towards the house, where I was, if possible, still more warmly received by his wife. Neil sent off a boy to William Black to intimate my arrival, so that William might come and give me his news before setting out on my journey to Southampton. I had wished also to see Robert M'Nab, William's son-in-law, but as Robert lived at a greater distance, it was thought that my time was not sufficient to enable him to come and join our party. I had not been very long seated when the young men came in for dinner, before



which the table had been neatly covered with a pure clean table cloth, and I joined them to an abundant supply of good mutton and delicious potatoes, on which I feasted most luxuriously ; here, and at Dugald Carmichael's, I have seen and tasted the finest potatoes I met with in Canada ; they were a dark reddish blue coloured variety, and reminded me of what we were wont to call Perthshire reds, though more in colour like the pink eyes, but without any part white. I had a very prolonged conversation in the family circle after dinner, answering their varied enquiries about places and persons, and discussing the comparative advantages of life in Canada and at home for persons of their own class. I found that Neil and his wife have indulged a lingering regret for their old haunts, but the young men spoke very warmly against any such idea, as they felt they could never have got on at home, and would have been compelled to leave their parents if they had not come as one party to Canada. Neil, indeed, said that they had of late years found that they were getting on better than at home, but that they had to endure many hardships after their first arrival, as there were then no roads, and no part of the land which they settled on, and which they still occupy, was then cleared. The land which Neil has acquired appears to be of very good quality, and yields a good return of all kinds of crop. In this respect he appears to have tested it too severely, as he pointed out some fields on which white crop had been sown without manure for thirteen consecutive years. The heap of manure which, in consequence, has accumulated near the barn where the cattle and horses are housed in winter has now become as great in size as the buildings themselves. The farm on which Neil lives extends to 100 acres, but he has acquired other lands in the County of Bruce. He has on his farm three horses, ten head of cattle, and above



twenty sheep, and his land would now sell for "*perhaps* 3,000 *dollars*; 2,000 *could be got for it at any time.*" About sixty acres of it are cleared, and his public and local taxes and rates amount to about 10 dollars per annum. James Gilchrist, the Postmaster at Keady, the nucleus of a town where there is a Post Office, is nearly related to Neil, and directed me to Neil's house. James also is from Islay, likes the country, and is getting on well in the store which he keeps at Keady; this office being about twelve miles distant from Owen Sound, and Neil's residence being about one mile further on. Neil's son and his son-in-law, whom I met on this occasion, but especially his son, was fine-looking, and apparently strong and well fitted for rough country work. The young man (the son) had been till lately working on a farm of his own in the township of Bruce; but one of his sisters having got married, who had previously been at home, he had let his own farm and come here to live with and cheer his parents; his other brother, who has a farm also in Bruce, having got married. I advised Neil to send the young man home next summer, that he also might get a wife from among his own people and see the old country again, as it is long since he came out, and was then very young. Neither the old man nor the young one seemed averse to the proposed visit, though the son demurred to the wife-taking as an obligation for the journey. In his case, as in that of young George Campbell of the Oa, to whom I have alluded, I was much pleased with his handsome appearance, and fine, frank, manly bearing. By the time we had discussed all these matters, old William Black arrived, and for a short time longer I was engaged in answering William's inquiries, so far as I could, about his old friends and neighbours in Islay. William is not much changed, but had walked from his own farm, and was looking very fresh and well. I told him of his son's kind attention to me at Owen

who had either been assisted to come  
- or who had been removed from  
their holdings at home against their  
will - This remark found verified  
in my experience elsewhere and  
it affords a pleasing illustration  
of the way we so readily ignore  
the sufferings and hardships of  
our days that are gone and dwell  
only on the difficulties and  
annoyances of the present hour.

In company with my old neighbors  
my time passed very pleasantly as  
their conversation was peculiarly  
interesting as having <sup>known</sup> them both ~~that~~  
that I could rely more on their statements  
better than I could on those of others  
whose character I was less acquainted  
and I was glad therefore to elicit  
details regarding either their own  
past or that of their neighbors  
whom I had known at home

Sound, and his desire to have come with me, and it is evident has comfort at any rate in having a son of fine disposition and excellent character. It was pleasing to hear Neil and William discuss the subject of emigration, and the manner in which they spoke of the sentimental repugnance to removals which is so often expressed home. Both were agreed that if they had thought only of themselves, they might, in the circumstances in which they were placed, have been as comfortable, or more comfortable, at home than here; but they felt that, if the welfare of their family was to be considered, there were many advantages in having come to Canada, especially in the fact that they were able to settle within reach, and that thus the parents have the pleasure of having them all around them, which they believed they could not have had at home. Neil and William were both aware that I had assisted several families to come to Canada; but they assured me that every settler described himself as having been well off at home, and that I should be unable to find any family in Canada who had either been assisted to come, or who had been removed from their holdings at home, against their will. This remark I found verified in my experience elsewhere; and it affords a pleasing illustration of the way in which we so readily ignore the sufferings and hardships of days that are gone, and dwell only on the difficulties and annoyances of the present hour. In company with my old neighbours the time passed very pleasantly, as their conversation was peculiarly interesting, as, having known them both, I felt that I could rely better on their statements than I could on those of others with whose character I was less acquainted, and I was glad, therefore, to elicit details regarding either their own position or that of their neighbours, whom I had known at home. The general import of all they said has been already indicated, and it may be summarized by stating



that, in their opinion, any working, industrious man with a family who is diligent, sober, and attentive to his duties, does enjoy advantages here which are not open to the working-man at home. The emigration from Britain of the idle and dissipated is no advantage but a loss to the colony, and no gain to the individuals, who had better remain at home. They seemed also to feel that old men or young unmarried tradesmen gain little by going to Canada, as, although wages are higher, so also is the cost of living and clothes, in towns where such persons would usually seek work; but the rural labourer, or small farmer with a family, able and willing to work, can at all time find employment, and may soon, from their wages, acquire sufficient means to enable them to buy and settle on land of their own. This latter more encouraging view applies also to masons, carpenters, bricklayers, or plasterers, where the individuals have any aptitude for varied employment. As for clerks and storekeepers, there seems little to encourage young men of this class, unless they are willing to apply their strength to out-door manual labour. Any number of females, acquainted with house or farm work, can get employment, but trained domestic servants are about as well off at home, except in cases where their families settle in Canada, and in such they are sure to get plenty of remunerative employment if they are not needed at home. I had at last to order the horse to be put in the waggon, and as "Sambo," who acted as my postillion, had dined, I parted with my old friends, getting a kindly blessing from the old lady at parting, as well as from Neil and William. Both accompanied me to the public road, where the waggon had been left, and on the way Neil said, "Well, Mr. R., after all I have been saying, I wish you to understand that I feel I have acted rightly in coming here, however willing you might have been to give me more land. You could not make land; you



could not eject others to please me. I could not have wished you to do it, and therefore I could not have had my family settled near me as they all are here; and I feel in my old age that this is so great a comfort that it more than compensates for any inconvenience I have suffered, either from our long winter or the hardships we endured when we first settled here, and for some years past we have really been very comfortable, and have now ample means." William Black, who heard this little speech, immediately added, as we walked slowly towards the waggon, "Mr. R., Neil has just expressed my own feelings. Sometimes in winter, when I am annoyed with the severe cold, I say to the young folks that I would prefer to live at home, even on one meal a-day than to live here on the most abundant and richest fare; but, after all, when I think how comfortably and how well my family and we all are getting on, I really know that, instead of grumbling, I should be grateful for the numerous blessings we enjoy." I expressed the pleasure which I felt on hearing such opinions, dictated in part possibly by a desire to relieve me from any feeling that they had suffered by emigration; but doubtless on the whole they expressed their unbiassed view of their position, as both the one and the other had means sufficient to enable them to go home and to live comfortably all their days if they had wished so to do. With many kind messages to all my own circle, to Mr. Ross, Mr. M'Herg, and others, I parted from them with regret, as I had a desire to remain longer if it had been in my power. At Keady I saw James Gilchrist, and got quickly on to Southampton, a distance of 24 miles from Neil's, which I reached about seven in the evening, and I set out immediately to seek for Alexander Sinclair (a son of Neil Sinclair, formerly tailor in Bowmore). I soon found his shop, but learned from the young storekeeper, who is a native of Colonsay, that Sinclair was then absent

drilling the local company of Volunteers, of which he is the captain, and would soon return. I left the shop in order to get some supper at the little inn where I had put up the waggon; and on my return I found Mrs. Sinclair, to whom I explained my desire to see her husband, in order to ascertain from him how I should best get to Kincardine, as the steamer which plies between Southampton and Goderich had not then arrived, and I was anxious to get on next morning early, as I did not learn that there were any Islay settlers near Southampton. Mr. Sinclair himself came in as we were engaged in discussing my movements, and very kindly entered into my plans, but urged that I should remain for a day, and that he would accompany me to his father, who would be very glad to see me, and to hear of the old country from the lips of one he knew, who had recently arrived in Canada. I thought of acting on his advice; but my time was then so far gone that I was constrained to give up the idea, and resolved to start next morning for Kincardine, where I expected to be able to get accurate information as to how I should best reach the Rev. Mr. Grant. Sinclair advised me not to think of the steamer, but to go by the stage which leaves at 6 a.m., and would reach Kincardine about noon. I assented to this proposal, and passed an hour or two conversing with Sinclair and a neighbour of his named Currie, from Bowmore. Currie came out upwards of thirty years since, and has been in this district all the time. When he came first there was no road between Sungeen (now called Southampton) and Owen Sound, but he had to make his way through the forest, as he best could, by the help of the compass. There are now more than one passable road—one of them very good, by which the mail waggon travels. Sinclair has land near the town, which he farms, and his father has a good farm about seven miles off, and they have all done very well since they came, as he has a

brother who keeps a store at Walkertown, about thirty miles distant— a thriving and large town. The one I saw is well off, and spoke of himself as if he had acquired greater wealth than any other of his family. After a glass of toddy at the inn, I parted from him, and went off to rest for the night.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 1870.—I was astir this morning before six, and found little hesitation in getting out of bed, as, although having slept close to an open window, the heat had hindered my repose, and I was pleased when I heard the mail stage drive up to the inn door, and I was asked to join it, that we might proceed on the journey. On the road here, as elsewhere, one meets with nothing but the same unvarying alternation of clearance and bush or primitive forest, which is the characteristic feature in American travelling. I got breakfast at a wayside inn, about half-way to Kincardine, and reached the town itself about half-past twelve noon. Mr. M'Endrick lives immediately opposite, and is Postmaster, and I entered his door just as the bags were handed in. His brother, who is married to a daughter of the late Duncan M'Allister, Bridgend, had left for Europe some time previously, but had kindly asked his brother to give me any aid and entertainment in his power, as Colin Hay had written announcing my intended visit. Mr. M'E. received me kindly, and introduced me to his wife, who sat and chatted so long as her husband was engaged assorting the letters which had arrived by the mail. He soon joined us, and advised that I should call and see the Rev. Mr. Fraser, who would be able to tell me whether Mr. Grant was at home; and, after agreeing to take some dinner which she would prepare during our absence, we started off to see Mr. Fraser, and happily found him at home, and able to assure me that I should



find Mr. Grant at home. He directed me how to find his dwelling; and, after some conversation with Mr. F. regarding the Highland emigrants from Tyree and other insular districts who are settled near, I went off with Mr. M'E. to hire a "buggie" to convey me to Mr. Grant. Mr. Fraser is anxious that some Scottish low-country farmers should be induced to settle among the islesmen, to set an example of better farming and greater industry. They are too apt to rest satisfied with the ample supply which the fertile soils yield without the use of skill or much labour; and as they are quiet, inoffensive, and moral, he desires that they should be led to aim to improve their circumstances more, and so elevate their condition. They have plenty of food and clothing, and therewith they rest content. I was pleased to hear they had so much. I promised, in the event of my return to Kincardine, that I would call again for Mr. F. and hear a further exposition of his views; but, as I did not return, I lost this advantage. On our arrival at Mr. M'E.'s dwelling, I got my tidily-served, comfortable luncheon, and soon thereafter was on my way to Ashfield just before sunset—the road for the latter part of the way being very bad indeed. Mr. G.'s manse has been erected in the centre of a small clearing on the side of the concession road, and occupies as lonely and isolated a place as any I saw in the course of all my wanderings. There is no cultivated ground near it—nothing but fine timber on the four sides of a cleared space, not more than three or four acres in extent; and as the tall trees, by the time I arrived, cut off the sun's rays from the dwelling, it looked lonely and deserted indeed. The house itself has been raised on timber piles about two feet above the surface of the ground. A rugged, broken-down "buggie" was lying near, and I made my way through the stumps to the door, rather fearing that the interior of the dwelling would correspond with the desolation which appeared to reign



outside. Two fine children appeared as I was on my way, but I could elicit no reply from them, and while I knocked at the door, was pleased to hear Mrs. Grant's voice within. I had not long to wait when I was ushered in by a young man, a son of Mr. Grant, and the room I entered, which looked clean and tidy, though the furniture was scant, dispelled my fears of internal discomfort. Mr. Grant soon made appearance; and as the evening was about to close, and I thought it might not be convenient with his large family that I should remain all night, I at once proposed that he should make ready to accompany me to a wayside inn, where we might stay all night, and where we could discuss my further progress and learn his views. He at once agreed to this arrangement, and I then bade good-bye to his wife and the young folks, and we set out on our return to Widow M'Pherson's, where I should get supper and a bed. We had to walk part of the way, and Mr. Grant seemed very much to enjoy the opportunity of recalling many past scenes. He continues to be exactly what he was, in word and action, twenty years since, and active as ever, so far as I could judge. I was much pleased to meet him and see him so well, and to hear of his family getting on so nicely on the whole. The young man I saw, indeed, had tried store-keeping and found it unprofitable; but though he lost some money and somewhat involved his father, he was able to pay his debts and to retire without loss to others. They are hopeful that he may still succeed in some other sphere. Mrs. Grant, though she would not be deemed by strangers a model wife, seems exactly suited to her husband's habits, taste, and wants, and he spoke of her in terms of affectionate regard, which could not be other than sincere. He has one daughter married, who has one child, so that he is now a grandfather, and he seemed much pleased with the thought. After our arrival at the inn, I allowed my

"buggie" and driver to return to Kincardine, as Mr. Grant assured me that he would, next day, find a conveyance to carry me on to Goderich, and would accompany me, and remain till he should see me in the cars on my way to Toronto. We passed a very pleasant evening; some sad retrospective glances at past events being mingled with occasional mirth, when past scenes of joy were recalled; and, before going to bed, after some hours of constant talk, I gladly bowed the knee and united with him in prayer for a blessing from on high for friends near and dear and on our past and present lot.

# Appendix I

Petition of tenants of Upper Killeen, Parish of Oa to Charles Morrison Esq. of Islay asking for assistance in emigrating to Canada

Unto Charles Morrison Esq of Islay  
The Petition of the undersigned Tenants on the farm  
of Upper Killeen Parish of Oa

Sheweth

That your Petitioners had been in possession of a portion of said farm for upwards of twenty year and the same lands were held from time immemorial by their forebearers. That your Petitioners were dispossessed of their lands at the term of Whitunday last by order either of your Factor or by order of Mr Ramsay of Glenties. That your Petitioners made no opposition but quietly relinquished their holding which were let to others. That your Petitioners were given to understand when they waited on your Honour at Bridgend in presence of the Rev James Dowan Minister of the Parish that if they should be obliged to leave their farm that they would be otherwise provided for on your Honours Estate in Islay. That your Petitioners consequently applied to said Factor for some small possession by which they could support themselves and numerous families and were informed there were no openings and were told to apply to Mr Ramsay. That your Petitioners have no wish to cast reflections on any party as they must acknowledge they are not in a position to avail themselves of your Honours generous offer. That your Petitioners have therefore resolved with their families to Emigrate to Canada West but that from their straitened means they cannot accomplish the object of their wish. That your Petitioners are emboldened to apply to your Honour humbly but earnestly trusting that you may be pleased to take their case into your favorable Consideration and grant them such assistance as may enable them to reach the place of their destination Pointe Canada West. That your Petitioners beg to state that one of them namely Donald McEwen has five of a family exclusive of himself and wife another has nine of a family exclusive of himself and wife namely Neil Smith, another of

them namely Charles McArthur has four  
of a family exclusive of himself and wife.  
Another has three of a family exclusive  
of himself and wife, in all 129 souls - May  
it please your Honour to Consider their Case  
and extend to them such aid as your Honour  
may deem proper.  
And your Petitioners as in duty Bound shall  
ever stay

(Signed) Peter Chisholm  
witness to the signatures

J. Stewart  
witness

Donald X McEwen  
his  
mark

Nail X Smith  
his  
mark

Charles X McArthur  
his  
mark

Archibald X McTaggart  
his  
mark

Killean Park, Slesy  
6 May 1821

(Copy)

Thereby certify that the statement contained  
in the foregoing petition is on the whole  
correct. The petitioners are very poor,  
yet honest as far as I know.

(signed) James Dewar, Minister of Pa.  
Island of Slesy



# Appendix II

List showing the passengers on S.S. Damascus who had their fares to Canada paid by John Ramsay Esq.

Glasgow 28 June 1862

John Ramsay Esq.

To Samuel & Alex Allan

For the passage money to Quebec & Toronto per Damascus of the undernoted

Mr. Matheson	To Toronto	54	Shas. ad.	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	48	"	5 4 6	
Isabella Do	Do	28	"	5 4 6	
Donald Do	Do	20	"	5 4 6	
Duncan Do	Do	16	"	5 4 6	
Martha Do	Do	12	"	5 4 6	
James Do	Do	8	"	3 6 3	
Mary Do	Do	6	"	2 12 3	
Catherine Do	Do	22	"	5 4 6	12 11
John Matheson	Do	58	"	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	48	"	5 4 6	
Catherine Do	Do	21	"	5 4 6	
Alison Do	Do	19	"	5 4 6	
Elizabeth Do	Do	16	"	5 4 6	
John Do	Do	14	"	5 4 6	
Richard Do	Do	12	"	5 4 6	
Barbara Do	Do	8	"	3 6 3	
Duncan Do	Do	7	"	2 19 3	
Isabella Do	Do	14	"	2 12 3	
James Do	Do	12	"	1 18 3	
Miss Graham	Do	68	"	5 4 6	52 12
Neil Matheson	Do	59	"	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	50	"	5 4 6	
Catherine Do	Do	21	"	5 4 6	
John Do	Do	26	"	5 4 6	
Eliza Do	Do	17	"	5 4 6	
James Do	Do	13	"	5 4 6	
Marion Do	Do	11	"	4 7 3	
Neil Do	Do	9	"	3 18 3	
John Do	Do	9	"	3 18 3	
Mary Do	Do	5	"	2 5 3	45 6
Charles M. Matheson	Do	40	"	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	36	"	5 4 6	
Donald Do	Do	9	"	3 18 3	
John Do	Do	4	"	1 18 3	
Neil Do	Do	2	"	1 14 3	
Ann Do	Do	1	6 months	0 0 0	16 14 6
John M. Matheson	Do	40	year exp.	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	30	"	5 4 6	
Catherine Do	Do	9	"	3 18 3	
Charles Do	Do	7	"	2 19 3	
Duncan Do	Do	1	"	1 11 3	18 12 9
Neil Smith	Do	54	"	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	50	"	5 4 6	
Margt Do	Do	25	"	5 4 6	
Mary Do	Do	20	"	5 4 6	
Eliza Do	Do	17	"	5 4 6	
William Do	Do	10	"	3 18 3	
Donald Do	Do	7	"	2 19 3	
Isabella Do	Do	4	"	1 18 3	
Neil Do	Do	1	6 months	0 0 0	
William Do	Do	1	year exp.	5 4 6	
John Do	Do	22	"	5 4 6	45 9 3
Donald M. Matheson	Do	60	"	5 4 6	
Mrs. Do	Do	12	"	5 4 6	

Brought forward				12 9	321 4 6
Ann McEwan	to	Months	20 years age	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	14 "	5 4 6	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	12 "	5 4 6	
And <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	7 "	2 19 3	
Barbara	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	58 "	2 5 3	31 y
Malcolm Blackie	to	Months	26 "	4 8 2	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	26 "	4 8 2	
August	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	8 "	2 18 1	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	6 "	2 4 1	
John McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	3 years age	14 "	
Widow McEwan	to	Months	58 "	5 4 6	14 12 6
Rachel	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	24 "	5 4 6	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	19 "	5 4 6	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	17 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	12 "	5 4 6	26 2 6
Catherine Johnston	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	44 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	16 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	14 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	8 "	3 6 3	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	6 "	2 12 3	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	3 1/2 "	1 11 3	23 3 3
John McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	20 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	28 "	5 4 6	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	18 "	5 4 6	
William	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	15 "	5 4 6	
James	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	24 "	5 4 6	
John	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	24 "	5 4 6	
John McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	20 "	5 4 6	
John McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	22 "	5 4 6	41 16
James McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	18 "	5 4 6	
James McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	27 "	10 9	
John McEwan	B <sup>o</sup>	B <sup>o</sup>	28 "	2 "	17 13 6
					375 14 3

Passengers from May to Quebec & Toronto of the Damascus who paid for themselves

Mr Mathieson	57 years
Mrs do	26
Isabella do	25
Dugald do	25
do (wife)	25
Margaret Mathieson	25
Catharine do	25
Janet do	17
John McNeil	24
Peter McNeil	1/2 months
Duncan Campbell	44 years
Mrs do	36
Dugald do	12
Catharine do	10
Margaret do	8
John do	7
Patricia do	4
Isabella do	2
Mary do	6 months
Elizabeth M'Quinn	60 years
Donald Campbell	60
Mrs do	58
Donald McQuinn	25
Charles McQuinn	20
John McQuinn	20
Donald Carmichael	25
Mrs do	31
Neil do	1
Janet McQuinn	10
Catharine do	8
John do	7

In all One hundred & twenty souls —

List of passengers to Canada on S.S. Damascus who paid for themselves

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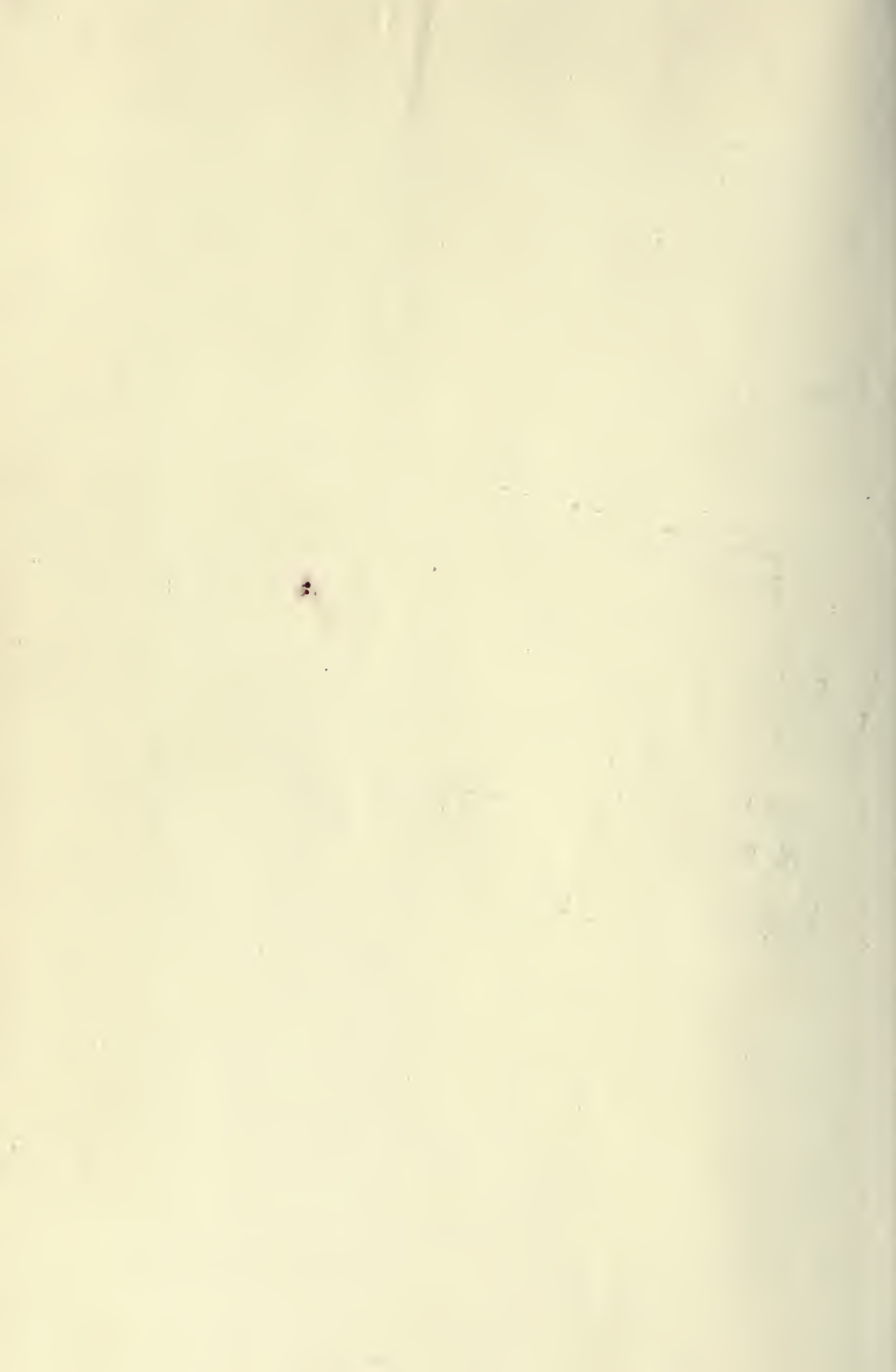
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